



17 January 2019

### **Police arrest three suspects following arson incident in Malaita Province**

Police at Auki have arrested three men in relation to the burning of a vehicle at the Wairokai Logging Camp in West Are'Are, Malaita Province on 14 January 2019.

Supervising Provincial Police Commander (PPC) Malaita Province, Inspector Peter Kinita says, "Early this morning (17 January 2019) police in Auki arrested three suspects for the alleged burning of a Hilux vehicle at Wairokai Logging Camp in West Are'Are, Malaita Province, and they have been brought to the Auki Police station to be questioned in relation to the incident."

"The arrest of the trio has been possible with the help of the community at Bairai Village and others in West Are'Are. I would like to thank my officers involved in this operation for their hard work and as well the members of the community at Bairai for assisting the police," says Supervising PPC Kinita.

Investigation into this matter continues.

Supervising PPC Kinita appeals to parties involved in the dispute not to resort to any further violence, but to assist the police with any information that they may assist in the investigation.

It is alleged the arson incident is related to a dispute over land that the logging company is currently operating.

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#### **Media inquiries**

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