

**Notes taken from Legal Workshop run by Caxton Legal Service in Maleny on Mon 18 April 2005**

If police give you a "move-on" direction you can ask "move from where?" and "which act?", but such questions may be considered "obstruction".

A lock-on protest situation is considered more serious, attracting higher penalties/fines.

Consequences of arrest: may influence future ability to travel to certain countries, employment in public service, etc. However, if convicted, you may request to have the conviction not recorded.

It's a good idea for legal observers to be visually obvious during a protest, eg. wear a sash, white lab-coat, badge, etc

Think about how you can take strategic info into the watchhouse with you as the police will remove your personal belongings. EG, write phone number of support/legal counsel on you arm or clothing.

Protest and arrest can be a very traumatic experience - take the opportunity of counselling/group support to assist you to deal with your experiences

Court duty lawyers generally only assist with serious matters or cases which may result in a jail sentence.

[www.legalaids.qld.gov.au](http://www.legalaids.qld.gov.au)

Plea bargaining: gain a reduction in penalty in exchange for an early plea

Always check the wording of a plea . . . get legal advice

Prepare your case ASAP after arrest - include personal background information.

Under the Juvenile Justice Act, people under 17 years old at time of offence have a different treatment by police and courts - get advice.

"Save the Platypus" is a noble endeavour, be clear of your reasons for protest, esp. in court.