

FOREWORD

The significant use of any resource requires justification. The publication of a new journal dedicated to environmental law is no exception. The justification arises out of the long track record of New Zealand in the fields of land conservation, town and country planning, and more recently integrated resource management. The adoption of the “sustainable management” purpose in the Resource Management Act 1991, as the overarching objective for the management of activities and resources, and the integration of all environmental decisions under this rubric, has provided a focus leading to valuable writing on the subject.

The environmental law teachers group at the Faculty of Law of the University of Auckland, considered that there was a need for a dedicated publication in the area, to record and publish research and writing which might not otherwise be seen. Similar journals are found in other countries dedicated to environmental management and the future survival of the world order. The evolving internationalisation of environmental thought and principles is another justification for a New Zealand journal, which can offer a contribution in the larger arena. To this end, the journal includes articles with an international dimension, as well as others dealing with domestic concerns.

For the future, it is expected that the journal will attract material of the highest academic excellence, and also writing relating to government practices and local policy ambitions. The journal is aimed at a wide community of readers. It is hoped that the writings may have a positive influence on the enhancement of the natural environment through the policy and plan decision and consent processes.

As general editor, many acknowledgments are due. First, the contributors to this issue of the journal have provided a diversity and wealth of subject coverage, research, theory and opinions. Secondly, grateful appreciation is expressed to the New Zealand Law Foundation for a generous grant to assist the initial publication, and to the Legal Research Foundation for a further grant. The input of David Grinlinton, in promoting and managing the publication of the Journal, is gratefully acknowledged and also the support and vision of the members of the editorial committee. A profound acknowledgment is due to Erika Kasai and Jason Harkess, two senior law students, who have undertaken a substantial part of the editorial process, and to Lucy Stroud for her proof reading and checking. Finally, the support of the Dean of Law, Professor Bruce Harris and the members of the Faculty of Law in endorsing the new publication is acknowledged.

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