

FOREWORD

The achievement of sustainable development at the global environmental level in 2004 has been significantly advanced with the further ratifications to the Kyoto protocol, enabling the convention to come into force. Although not supported by several major nations, the commitment towards sustainable development will provide a model for all countries, and assure greater certainty of environmental sustainability. Within New Zealand, the Kyoto protocol has been ratified and will be implemented.

Other local events touching on sustainability are the settlement of foreshore claims by indigenous Maori, resulting in the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004. Further claims to the marine farming resource have been settled under a comprehensive Aquaculture Reform Act 2004. The purpose of sustainable management under the Resource Management Act 1991 has received support by inclusion of objectives of sustainable development in the Local Government Act 2002, and as a purpose in the Building Act 2004. Under the latter Act buildings are to be designed, constructed, and able to be used in ways that promote sustainable development.

This issue of the Journal includes articles which reflect on the developments outlined. Mark Schroder considers the origins of indigenous title and claims to water resources. Anja Gerdung assesses global environmental governance and the role of civil society groups. Ceri Warnock considers the climate change regime and the Kyoto protocol, and Stephanie Mead revisits the precautionary principle. Ali Memon and Peter Skelton consider provision for environmental compensation under the Resource Management Act 1991, and Trevor Daya-Winterbotham reviews the present RMA reform proposals. Jacinta Ruru assesses the conservation estate and principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and Stephanie Curran compares the respective objectives of sustainable development and sustainable management. Peter Fuiava looks into the control of genetically modified organisms under district plans, and Colleen Prendergast enquires into the mechanisms for funding of infrastructure.

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