

FOREWORD

The year 2006 may go down in history as a year in which global warming and the necessity to take seriously the message of sustainable development was recognised at the populist political level. Al Gore, a former US Vice President, promoted the film *An Inconvenient Truth*. Following a visit to New Zealand, he reinforced the incontrovertible message that human activities are altering the ecology and lifecycle balance on the planet, and that serious changes must be undertaken to safeguard the legitimate expectations of present and future generations.

The multitude of environmental concerns which have arisen in this last decade are recognised in many of the papers included in this issue of the *Journal*, and in the book under review. Jennifer Stanton considers the ethics and issues of genetically modified organisms, and Stephanie Bonney delves into the regimes relating to deep sea resources and their protection. Alexander Gillespie considers the management of protected areas of international significance. Lars Hoffman evaluates economic instruments in reducing carbon emissions, with a comparison of policies in New Zealand and Germany. The next three papers deal with matters of fresh water and pollution of waterways. Barry Brunette examines the allocation regime under the Resource Management Act, and Andrew Hayward assesses the area of water markets and pricing. Lucie Drummond focuses upon the management of non-point source discharges into waterways.

Ongoing issues of Maori consultation under the RMA are assessed by Jenny Vince. Carla Towns takes an outsider's perspective in assessing the value of third party rights in the New Zealand RMA system. Erika Techera assesses custom and conservation in Samoa. A review by Prue Taylor of the recent text *Environmental Law for Sustainability* completes the content.

The author wishes to acknowledge the valuable academic contributions by the respective authors. Appreciation is expressed to Mike Wagg and Amy Tansell for processing the material. The collegial support of the Board of the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, and by the Academic and General Staff of the Law School at the University of Auckland is also acknowledged.

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December 2006