

FOREWORD

During the year of 2018 multiple events have challenged the attainment of environmental sustainability as a norm and goal in the global arena. The recognition of climate change as a serious challenge for human and ecological survival is not acknowledged universally. However, the Paris agreement has focused many countries on addressing increases in global warming, sea-level rise, and dramatic climatic events. In all countries, the basics of drinking water and food security, overpopulation, and poverty and lawlessness are continuing issues. Barriers to immigration to enhance survival and well-being remain controversial.

The lead article by Dr Martin Kment focuses on the understanding of sustainability, its scope and application as a universal principle. Environmental trusteeship of the global commons is the subject of the article by Hannah Prior where the position of New Zealand is assessed. The regulation of marine genetic resources in the high seas is the concern of Anja Morris in her article. Regarding approval of genetic modification activities, Olivia Oldham critiques the marginalisation of tikanga Māori (culture and beliefs) into the process. Madeline Seaman assesses the place of philosophy and psychology as factors in understanding the effectiveness of environmental law in the New Zealand context.

Regarding the domestic subject of privacy and views from properties, Kevin Counsell analyses a recent decision from a law and economics perspective. Turning to the subject of waste management, Benedikt Miller compares the regulatory provisions within New Zealand and Germany. In a related area of greenhouse gas mitigation, Victoria Edmonds compares strategies adopted by selected local governments globally to reduce emissions. Finally, with regard to the management of freshwater resources, Hannah Watson considers an issue of the taking and the export of freshwater from New Zealand and whether there should be a price levied on the quantities used.

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