

FOREWORD

Progress in the field of environmental law has been incremental in 2019 with increasing recognition of causes of environmental degradation, climate change events, greenhouse gas emissions, and state responsibility. Demonstrations by representatives of younger generations in many countries have called for greater action on climate change mitigation. This growing recognition may become a driver for better research and international co-operation. A trend to increased use of electric vehicles, and concerns over plastics pollution, have been positive changes.

In volume 23 of the Journal, Pip Wallace and Jennifer Holman analyse the purpose of well-being in legislation in the New Zealand regulatory environment. A joint article by Raewyn Peart, Alison Greenaway and Lara Taylor investigates the success of enabling marine ecosystem-based management in the New Zealand legal framework.

Moving the focus overseas, Sarah Eason assesses the potential role of the international trade regime to help phase out fossil fuel subsidies, and reduce fuel use. Benjamin Johnstone considers the “sinking island” phenomenon due to sea-level rise, and the consequent legal challenges on maintaining statehood. Regarding regulation of mining, Jesse Aimer investigates adaptive risk management of deep seabed mining in international waters. In the similar field of fossil fuel promotion, Briony Bennett considers the potential liability of major oil companies for civil liability for harm caused by climate change.

Returning to the domestic jurisdiction, Pooja Upadhyay examines the potential for suing the New Zealand Government for climate change inaction. Likewise, Bryce Lyall addresses the prospects for atmospheric trust litigation in New Zealand. Lastly, Mick Strack and Andrew Scott consider boundary and survey issues in relation to movements of rivers.

Overall, the academic contributions and insights of the authors are gratefully acknowledged. Concerning production, the substantial subediting skills of Mike Wagg are acknowledged, together with the skills of Amy Tansell of Words Alive in finalising the electronic layout. The collegial support of the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law is acknowledged, and the support of professional staff of the Law School in respect of distribution. Finally, ongoing financial support from Elaine Davies towards production costs is especially appreciated.

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February 2020