

FOREWORD

The year 2020 has been extraordinary as the year of the Covid-19 pandemic. This global coronavirus has had devastating effects on human health, international travel, and economies. It challenges many environmental objectives and management of adverse effects.

While this issue does not include any articles directly relating to the pandemic, it includes a range of informed commentary and analysis on many topical issues. Hilke Giles and Barry Barton have contributed an article on adaptive management under the Resource Management Act (NZ), while Ben Stewart considers the regulatory structure and the division of functions between central and local government under the Act.

Looking further afield, David Weitz assesses the regulation of atmosphere, and space, through a trusteeship organisation. Similarly, Cecilie Hald advocates for a global pact for world survival. The reality of climate change-induced migration, with reference to the Pacific Island states, is the subject of the article by Oriane Jolly.

Returning to the New Zealand context, Philipp Semmelmayr provides a critical assessment of the reforms to our climate change response under the Paris accord. In relation to legal responsibility, Danielle Cooper proposes that government should be accountable in the courts for adverse climate outcomes. Kierra Parker proposes a duty of active protection in any climate crisis. Finally, Alexander Young provides a historical study of actions of early settlers in draining a regional wetland, and the development culture that applied.

Overall, the academic contributions are gratefully acknowledged. Concerning production, the professional editing skills of Mike Wagg, and production of the pagged electronic copy by Amy Tansell of Words Alive, are acknowledged. The collegial support of the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, and the support of professional staff at the Law School, are — as always — acknowledged. New financial support from Sir David Williams QC that assists with continuing publication is greatly appreciated. Lastly, after 24 rewarding years as the founding and general editor, Kenneth Palmer is stepping aside, and David Grinlinton of the Law School will be the editor of the next volume.

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