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## Announcements

### **Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part III: The Resource Management Act 1991**

The Palmer Addresses is a collection of speeches and lectures delivered by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

The following speeches and lectures present a set of ideas about how the Resource Management Act 1991 was working at various times throughout its history. Whether the Act achieved its stated purpose of promoting "sustainable management" is a key motif throughout. Over time, the performance of the Act became worse as it was altered by a number of ad hoc amendments. In the end, it has become necessary to start again, as Government decisions indicated in 2020.

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**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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An address to the RMA Conference held in Auckland on 1–2 March 1995. The address explores the historical and political background of New Zealand's resource management laws, describing how political strategy led to the consolidation of its uncoordinated and unintegrated laws into one comprehensive statute. It examines the Resource Management Act's underlying objective of sustainable management, and asserts that courts should not lose sight of this fundamental purpose.

### "Ruminations on Reform, Strategic Thinking and Law: Reflections on the Resource Management Act 1991"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 29/2021*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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An address to the RMA Conference held in Auckland on 12 May 1999. The address seeks to evaluate the progress of the Resource Management Act as of 1999, and in doing so asks whether it has succeeded in promoting sustainability. It examines the Government's proposed amendments to the Act, arguing that they take us no closer to a sustainable approach to development in New Zealand, nor to resolving the Act's biggest issues. It suggests that there needs to be a better sense of vision about what the Act is for, and that this requires some leading cases in the higher courts.

### "Whither the Resource Management Act?"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 30/2021*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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A speech to the New Zealand Planning Institute Conference, held in Hamilton on 22–24 May 2003. The speech argues that the meaning of sustainable development is still subject to problematic ambiguities that have not yet been clarified by courts, and laments the legal profession's preoccupation with questions of process at the expense of resolving central environmental issues. It concludes that the time may have come for a systematic, high-level review of the Act, but warns against a watering down of its environmental protections.

### "Sustainability and Our Social and Cultural Aspirations"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 31/2021*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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A speech to the PCE20 Forum, held on 1–2 March 2007. The speech argues that we are no closer to understanding the Resource Management Act's underlying objective of sustainable development, attributing this to the absence of judicial guidance on its fundamental driving principles. It explores the ambiguities associated with sustainable development, warning that these need to be resolved soon if the Act's protective aims are to be achieved. It introduces the concept of social sustainability, arguing that there need not always be a trade-off between sustainable management and economic development.

### "The Resource Management Act Reforms: A Return to Unbridled Power?"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 32/2021*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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A lecture to the Environmental Defence Society, delivered in Auckland on 7 August 2013. The lecture traces the "Think Big" economic philosophy of the late 1970s and early 1980s, epitomised by the National Development Act 1979, and examines how this provided the foundations for the Resource Management Act 1991. It describes the extensive law reform process that preceded the Resource Management Act, and the problems that beset the product.

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## About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by

members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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