

The comparative length of the chapters on bail and appeal processes reflects both the importance and the complexity of these particular topics. The author approached each topic for discussion either as a whole, independently between jurisdictions, or from the position of one jurisdiction in particular 'as a model for what occurs elsewhere'.

The actual body of the text has been substantially updated in relevant sections. One may identify many areas of criminal procedure which have undergone significant reform between editions; for example, the expansion of police powers of interrogation, search and seizure, the McKinney Direction, reform to Commonwealth arrest provisions, Commonwealth and State warrant provisions, etc. Only one area remains, in principle, the same, this being bail.

In general, the entire pre-trial procedure is open to re-examination with a vast body of new case law and statutory reform, at both the Commonwealth and State level, arising from the almost daily occurrence of contentious litigation. The focus on future developments and reform in the field of criminal procedure in Australia is an invaluable attribute of the text, ensuring continuing relevance well into the future. By addressing contentious issues and identifying areas of potential reform, Mr Bishop ensures that the text remains the leading authority on criminal procedure in Australia in terms of national application.

*Ben Mangan**

Butterworths' Student Companions: Environmental Law

By Chris Diekman

First Edition, Butterworths, 1998, pp xcv, \$17.00 (pbk)

It is arguable that there is no replacement for reading the whole case. However, everyone is aware that when you realise that you know nothing about a most important case, it is the night before the exam and the library shut fifteen minutes ago - reading the entire case is not possible. In such emergency situations never forget that there are those little books in the Butterworths' Student Companions series. These books are all in very much the same vein and the latest in this range (*Butterworths' Student Companions: Environmental Law*) is no different.

The book consists of 109 case summaries. There is a brief summary of the facts of each case followed by the relevant holdings. The citation for

* Fifth year Arts/Law Student, University of Tasmania. All quotes extracted from preface and foreword of the first and second editions. The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by Mrs Terese Henning in writing this review.

each case is clearly given; and where applicable, more than one is given. The author has also stated in which court (or tribunal, etcetera) the decision was made. To make research easier, the subjects of each case are listed. For example, for *Rylands v Fletcher*, 'Landowner's rights - Dangerous substance kept on premises - Occupier strictly liable.' (It is worth noting that this case is cross-referenced to subsequent cases that have overturned the judgement).

The setting out of the book is convenient. The table of contents lists each case contained within, making reference to the page number as well as the individual number which has been allocated to each case. The cases are then listed in alphabetical order. The only real problem with the structure of the book is that the index is scanty.

The cases that I am familiar with (from recently completing an environmental law unit) are well summarised and the relevant issues in each case have been well dealt with. Of course, the cases do say more than is covered in each summary and for this reason it is dangerous to rely on these books as a replacement for reading the original cases. Many cases have dealt with other issues and the concise nature of this book has meant that such issues are not mentioned. The book will be most useful when one has just finished reading a case only to find that one cannot understand what those judges were talking about. When the precise wording typical of the judgements has resulted in unintelligibly complex sentences, *Environmental Law* is at its most useful. The book is thus a useful tool in aiding one's basic understanding of cases.

The greatest problem with this book stems from the fact that a large component of environmental law is regionally based. The effect of this is that many of the important cases, for Tasmanians, are not included in the book. This makes the book less helpful, a problem exacerbated in the smaller jurisdictions. Much of the law in *Environmental Law* is from New South Wales and is thus not relevant to Tasmania; for this reason, its usefulness depends largely on the jurisdiction in which the reader operates. It may not be a wise investment for Tasmanian students or practitioners.

*Kate Boyle**

* 4th year student, University of Tasmania BA/LLB.