

## PREFACE

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Resources and Responsibilities, the theme of the 53rd Conference of A.N.Z.A.A.S. held in Perth in May 1983, has proved to be particularly suitable to one of the more recently formed sections of the Conference devoted to Law. Paying special attention to the legal framework of development, we invited leading Australian specialists and a well-known U.S. energy-law expert to deliver papers on key legal issues.

To ensure the widespread and timely discussion of the papers we have dedicated this special issue of the Law Review to the Law Section of ANZAAS. The reader will note the wide coverage of topics. Dr Crommelin's Presidential Address discusses the current question of the relationship between Resources Law and Policy with special attention to resources rent. Professor Zillman examines the Impact on Communities of Major Developments based on United States experience and providing material and argument for application in other countries. Mr Rory Argyle has focussed on control by government over petroleum recovery rates on the Western Australian continental shelf, weighing good oilfield practice and the national interest. In examining the definition of "mining operations" Mr Bob Nicholson stresses the interface between legal skills and the mastery of an understanding of technology. Examining the position of workers in the uranium industry, Mr Philip McNamara highlights the difficulties of proof of causation. Judicial attitudes to complex scientific evidence in environmental cases are discussed by Mr Peter Johnston, while Dr Bradbrook considers the right of access to solar energy and its relationship to the law of nuisance.

Our selection of topics and authors was intended to canvass the legal aspects of resource questions of general concern in Australia today. It is hoped that the special A.N.Z.A.A.S. issue of the Law Review will be read and utilised in Law Schools, by the profession, and by government, and will serve as a point of departure for public discussion.