

Foreword

As is the case in so many fields, the knowledge and expertise we have in New Zealand in different aspects of energy law is of a very high standard. Over the last few years in particular, tremendous developments have taken place in the use and exploitation of our own natural resources. These have resulted in individual members of the legal, banking and accountancy professions studying and learning about the different skills required to enable the developments to take place.

Any exploitation on such a scale requires team work and wherever a team is operating rules and guidelines must be settled to enable the different members to fulfil their functions efficiently. Some New Zealanders have gone overseas and studied and come back here with the ability to set up the necessary structures. Other experts from overseas have come to this country and taught and taken part in these projects. In other cases we have had to develop within the country skills and techniques to suit our own needs. This type of growth, however, has meant that exchange of knowledge and the learning process was necessarily limited and somewhat unstructured.

We were therefore extremely fortunate that Professor Douglas Fisher, formerly of the Centre for Petroleum and Mineral Law Studies at the University of Dundee, came to the Victoria University of Wellington at exactly the right time. He recognised the need for the exchange of knowledge and organised the seminar at which the papers in this publication were presented.

The number who gave up a fine Saturday to attend demonstrated not only the recognition of the need by those concerned, but also their dedication and interest. Hopefully that seminar and this publication will be only the beginning of a continuing development of formal instruction in the skills this country needs if it is to take full advantage of its natural wealth.

P. G. Hillyer J.

10 February 1984.

