

# EDITORIAL NOTE

For two decades now, economic principles and insights have enriched the discussion of legal policy. This discussion generates valuable ideas, but can obscure the issues for people who are unfamiliar with the methods of approach used by law and economics experts. The study of economics can also be abused by those who stretch economic principles too far, without recognising their limitations as criteria by which to assess sound legislative and judicial policy.

The Law and Economics Association of New Zealand Inc was founded nearly two years ago. Its purpose is to advance New Zealanders' knowledge of law and economics. The Association sponsors lectures, seminars, discussions and publications.

One of the first tasks of the Association undertook, through its Publications Committee, was to prepare this special issue of the Law Review. Our intention is that those who are new to the study of law and economics will find in its a helpful introduction to its themes and the richness of its resources. Those who are more familiar with the law and economics discipline will, we hope, find the specific law and economics issues chosen by the authors stimulating. Our particular concern has been to see these issues discussed in a New Zealand context.

This has been a major task for the new organisation. We would like to thank especially the Ministry of Justice, our principal sponsor. We also thank our other sponsors, CCH New Zealand Ltd, the NZ Institute of Economic Research, and Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartlett & Co, whose support has also been vital to this venture.

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