REVIEWS


M. C. Holm, who carried the major responsibility for the compilation of this valuable document, is to be warmly congratulated for having hewn some neat paths through the somewhat unkempt legal shrubberies. As Venn Young notes in his preface: "Its compilation has been a pioneering and difficult exercise, and because the word 'environment' has no boundaries . . . the guide cannot hope to provide the answer to every question . . . ."

Section one begins with "Subject Tables" which guide the reader to a precis of no less than 78 Acts or parts of Acts which bear on the law of the environment. These tables are followed by 79 pages in which these Acts are summarised. In each case the administrative authority is named, to allow further enquiry, if need be. (The introduction indicates that further Acts could have been included, but a halt had to be called at some point.) From the point of view of a forester this makes somewhat alarming reading. Apart from the obvious statutes, trees or forestry are also dealt with in a plethora of Acts — Clean Air Act 1972, Counties Act 1956, Counties Amendment Act 1961, Electricity Act 1968, Electric Power Boards Act 1925, Fencing Act 1908, Land Act 1948, Mining Act 1971, Municipal Corporations Act 1953, Native Plants Protection Act 1934, Police Offences Act 1927, Public Works Act 1928, Property Law Amendment Act 1975, Reserves and Domains Act 1953 and above all the Town and Country Planning Act 1953. Forest officers responsible for advisory work should take note.

The subject tables are not sufficiently selective to guide the reader amongst this welter of information. For example, under 1.1.5. — "Forests, Native Bush and Trees", the table gives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree and bush preservation</th>
<th>Town and Country Planning Act 1953</th>
<th>Purposes of planning Page 86</th>
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<td>schemes; zoning; designation; registers for trees, etc.; planning permissions; &quot;amenities&quot;.</td>
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Admittedly all this starts on page 86, but one has to wade through to page 94 before one finds anything about registration of trees. The forester (and no doubt others whose work impinges on environmental issues) would need a comprehensive index to find his way about, and this the book lacks. I recommend that one be included in future editions.

The section on administration covers 32 pages, revealing a veritable forest of statutory bodies and public departments.
dealing with the environment. A rough count, not including divisions of State departments, reveals a total of 24 national statutory bodies, to which must be added numerous catchment authorities and local bodies. Twelve departments of State are named. The succinct descriptions of the responsibilities of each body are admirable. There are occasional important comments also; for example: "The Land Use Committee procedure is limited in that it applies only to Crown owned lands, and it operates without a regional framework of objectives and policies."

Section three deals with the question of law — common law in relation to statutes, and the effects of international treaties. Those interested in fishing, nuclear pollution, weapons and space could with profit peruse these 12 pages. But the non-legal person would have to seek elsewhere to determine the meaning of some of the terms (locus standi, for example) and it would be helpful to include a short glossary for the uninitiated.

Section four continues with the legal position, including public rights, and there is a useful section on cases brought under the Town and Country Planning Act and the Water and Soil Conservation Act.

Curiously there is no section on research, although DSIR research divisions are listed in Appendix 3. Surely research branches of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and of the Forest Service, are of equal importance to other divisions of Government departments, and more important than several of the statutory bodies listed in section two.

It would also have been useful (although not strictly related to environmental law) to list the many non-statutory bodies, such as the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and the acclimatisation societies, which surely have a useful role to play in environmental matters.

These are minor criticisms. In most respects the Guide is admirable. One could only wish that a similar compilation were available on the topic of trees and forests.

C. G. R. Chavasse


This attractively illustrated booklet is a guide to the walks which have been provided for public use in Hanmer State Forest. After a short foreword by the Director-General of Forests, an introductory chapter briefly outlines the history of the region and of the forest. Each of the four walks (the