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## Announcements

### **Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part I: Local Government**

The Palmer Addresses is a collection of speeches and lectures delivered by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

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## LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP NETWORK: LEGAL STUDIES RESEARCH PAPER SERIES VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON LEGAL RESEARCH PAPERS

### "Local Government, the Constitution and the Future"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 1/2022*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

An address to the New Zealand Local Government Conference, delivered on 18 November 1995. The address traces the history of local government in New Zealand, from the provincial legislatures of early colonial New Zealand, to their abolishment in 1876. It suggests that this abolishment has provided a disincentive to create a functional system of local government ever since. As a result, local government in New Zealand has not received the attention it deserves, and has developed without any theoretical underpinning. The address argues that a constitutional theory of local government needs to be developed, and the Local Government Act reformed.

### "Opening Address to the Local Government Forum 1997"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 2/2022*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

An address to the Local Government Forum, delivered in Nelson on 20 February 1997. The address reviews the history of local government in New Zealand, summarising the structure of local government as of 1996, as well as its functions and powers. It examines its various accountability mechanisms, including those derived from law, democratic procedures and local elections, and ombudsmen.

### "A Radical Thought about Local Government Reform in Auckland"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 3/2022*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

A presentation to the Regional Councillors Forum, delivered on 4 September 1999. The address expounds the various problems besetting the Local Government Act 1974, with an emphasis on its breadth and complexity. It evaluates whether a power of general competence could be the solution to these problems.

### "Reforming Local Government: A Power of General Competence"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 4/2022*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
Email: [geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

A presentation to the "Workshop for Councils to Discuss Recent Initiatives to Replace the Current Local Government Act", delivered on 28 October 1999. The presentation introduces the Local Government Bill, drafted by Chen Palmer, and the power of general competence for which the Bill provides.

### "Where to from Here? Local Government in New Zealand after the New Local Government Act"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 5/2022*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
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A paper and presentation prepared for the Local Government New Zealand Conference, Rotorua, 29 July 2002. The purpose of the paper and presentation is to examine the topography of the territory in which local government in New Zealand will be situated after the Local Government Bill 2001 has been passed by Parliament. The paper traverses the purpose and scope of the Local Government Bill to assess what the "brave new world of local government in New Zealand" may look like. It provides an overview of the history of weak local government in New Zealand, and compares this with the new constitutional reach under the Local Government Bill. It then discusses a number of specific issues, including the development of cohesive communities, the future of regional government, and equity issues. It ends by posing questions for further rumination.

## "The Reform of Local Government in New Zealand"

*Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 6/2022*

**SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC**, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law  
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An address to the 2002 CLAIR Forum, delivered on 6 December 2002. The address provides a brief history of local government in New Zealand, as well as an overview of its functions, powers and accountability mechanisms. It also examines the Local Government Bill as it then stood, arguing that constitutes a shift of power from central to local government.



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## About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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