

# NEW RESEARCH CENTRES FOR TE WHARE WĀNANGA O WAIKATO

The University of Waikato has recently approved the establishment of two new research centres to be based in Te Piringa Faculty of Law. Both centres embrace a 'best-team' approach to research, involving collaboration, locally, nationally and internationally.



## Māori and Indigenous Governance Centre

The Māori and Indigenous Governance Research Centre will focus on research issues concerning Māori and Indigenous Peoples' governance, rights and responsibilities. The centre will promote Indigenous worldviews and sound governance and development principles in order to build Indigenous capacity, facilitate Indigenous involvement in governance at all levels, and develop quality outcomes for Māori and Indigenous Peoples.

The Māori economy is an important part of the New Zealand economy and is set to grow further. In a post settlement environment, the resources of many Māori organisations will grow, which means that the capability of those organisations to achieve their social and economic objectives is becoming increasingly important. The multiple accountabilities of indigenous governors to their whānau members, beneficiaries and stakeholders make their governance challenges unique. Independent Research undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers has confirmed that Māori and Indigenous governance is a unique area of research, and that there is a vital link between improving good governance of Māori organisations and enhancing the economic and social contribution they can make to New Zealand. The PWC research also confirms that there is currently no central repository of models, ideas, lessons and stories about best practice kaupapa Māori governance. The best known example of a similar initiative overseas is the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development which has been successful as a result of the research and advisory projects it has generated and the valuable research into Indigenous development drivers. The University of Waikato can assist Māori organisations to improve the contributions they make to their own self-sufficiency as well as the overall New Zealand economy by helping to improve their governance practices. For further information on the Māori and Indigenous Governance Centre, contact Director, Linda Te Aho [naumai@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:naumai@waikato.ac.nz), (07) 856 2889.

## Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law (CEREL)



The University of Waikato hosts the most substantial concentration of academic expertise in New Zealand in environmental, natural resources and energy law. Barry Barton, Sadeq Bigdeli, Trevor Daya-Winterbottom, Al Gillespie, Robert Joseph, Bradford Morse, and Linda Te Aho are leaders in different parts of the field.

They have strong connections with environmental and resources policy makers, New Zealand legal practice, international legal practice, and across the Waikato campus with researchers in related fields.

The Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law (CEREL) seeks to capitalise on this concentration of expertise in order to facilitate research excellence and to develop Waikato's commitment to a world-class research-led University. A formal research platform is desirable for that purpose, and for the alignment of research with national strategic priorities and international scale problems.

The research programme of the Centre will be organised around the themes of water, energy efficiency, petroleum and minerals, Māori and Indigenous environmental governance, coastal and marine environment and international environmental law. Current research projects include Energy Cultures a FRST funded three year programme, and Intercoast a research and training co-operative programme between the University of Waikato and Bremen University.



Much of the Centre's research programme will be shaped by co-operation and collaborative research initiatives at Waikato University and will evolve with the appointment of nationally and internationally recognised researchers. For further information on CEREL, contact Professor Barry Barton, Director, [barton@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:barton@waikato.ac.nz), (07) 856 2889.

**For more information:**

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