LAUNCHING OF THE
CEREL CENTRE

The Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law (CEREL) is now launched. Events were held to note the occasion and to reach out to key audiences in Tauranga (29 November), Hamilton (30 November) and Wellington (1 December). Each event was attended by numbers of law practitioners, policy professionals, political figures, and commentators involved in law and policy.

The Centre was fortunate to have a leading environmental law expert, Professor Rob Fowler of the University of South Australia, speaking at all three launches. He commented that the establishment of a new Research Centre at the University of Waikato was an exciting time. He said, “Having been involved in the establishment of a similar centre in Australia, I have seen how quickly it is possible to develop and extend linkages to the international community of legal scholars through such an initiative.”

Professor Barry Barton (Director) said CEREL would be organised around the themes of water, energy efficiency, petroleum and minerals, Māori and indigenous governance, coastal and marine environment, and international environmental law.

Prof Barton, Prof Al Gillespie and Trevor Daya-Winterbottom offered short talks about current issues. Al spoke about the Control of Oil Pollution from Vessels. Barry’s talk focussed on our legal preparedness for oil and gas exploration offshore, including the EEZ Bill and the need for serious regulation of the way that wells are designed and completed. Trevor addressed alternative methods for environmental conflict resolution.

At the event in Hamilton, Environment Judge Melanie Harland said “What is particularly exciting about this new centre is that it is multi-disciplinarily and seeks to provide well rounded research into some of the bigger picture environmental issues.”
Masters and Doctoral students in the Centre presented their work in poster sessions. Guests were able to get a broader sense of the Centre’s work, and to discuss research issues with students to mutual benefit.

Student Poster Sessions

Attending the launch of Waikato University’s Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Tauranga from left to right, Dr Robert Joseph (Law Lecturer), Ingrid Leersnyder (PhD Student), Henare Waihape (Master Student), Lisa Marquardt (PhD Student).

CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University’s Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Tauranga from left to right Professor Bruce Clarkson (Dean Science & Engineering) and Marie Brown (PhD Student).
CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University’s new Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Wellington, Japdeep Singh-Ladhar (PhD Student).

CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University’s Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Tauranga, Michael Walmsley (PhD Student).
CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University’s Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Wellington, Arturo Fonseca-Andere (MPhil Student).

CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University’s Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Tauranga, Steven Farnworth (Master Student).
CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University’s Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Tauranga, from left to right, Kimberley Jordan (Master Student) and Lee Jordan (Tauranga City Council).

CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University’s Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Tauranga from left to right, Professor Brad Morse Dean of Te Piringa-Faculty of Law), Mayor Stuart Crosby (Mayor of Tauranga) and Professor Rob Fowler (University of South Australia.)
CEREL Launch: Attending the launch of Waikato University's Centre for Environmental, Resources and Energy Law in Wellington from left to right, Matiu Dickson (Chairperson of Law), Professor Barry Barton (Director of CEREL) and Hon Sir Grant Hammond KNZM.