

Law School, The University of Western Australia

'Petroleum Resource Management' Book Launch

**Address by the Honourable Kim Beazley AC
Governor of Western Australia**

Wednesday, 13 March 2019

I would firstly like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet – the Noongar people – and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Thank you Professor Bartlett, Co-Director of the Centre, Professor Stephen Smith, Professor Natalie Skead, Dean of the Law School and other distinguished guests and former colleagues.

It is my great pleasure to come back to the Law School this evening to launch Professor Chandler's book *Petroleum Resource Management: How Governments Manage Their Offshore Petroleum Resources*.

The UWA Law School was established in 1927. It is the oldest Law School in Western Australia and the fifth oldest in Australia. Its vision is to be a world-class law school that nurtures diverse legal minds and inspires just and innovative approaches to the global challenges of the 21st century.

The Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law was established within the Law School in 1990. Its aims include promoting encouraging and publishing research in mining, energy and natural resources law and providing a forum for the Law School, industry, government and the legal profession to facilitate research and exchange of ideas.

The research and publications of the members of the Centre over the years have sought to achieve these aims and those of the Law School. They have included numerous articles and reports and scholarly books on important areas for the resources industry, such as mining law, oil and gas law, climate change, water law, native title, native title trusts, environmental law and fisheries.

The production of energy and the environmental and climate consequences are clearly some of the great challenges of the 21st century. It is therefore important that institutions like the Law School and the Centre contribute to the discussion of the many issues that arise – not only how we regulate those things, but also the issues of justice, sustainability, human rights, international trade and foreign relations that follow.

As one review of the book has already stated, Professor Chandler's book provides a full and timely review of the challenges of regulating petroleum exploration, development and production at this time. As Australia establishes itself as one of the largest exporters of LNG in the world it is important that we consider carefully how we manage the relationship between the government and people of Australia and the companies which produce the petroleum.

I look forward to hearing the presentations this evening and continuing discussions about this important subject.

I take great pleasure in formally launching the book and those discussions.