

Citation for David Mortimer AO
Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*)
Wednesday, 2 June 2021 – 1.00pm

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present David Mortimer AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to business and the wider arts and sporting communities.

Mr Mortimer completed a Bachelor of Economics at the University of Sydney, graduating in 1970 with first-class honours. He pursued a successful early career in banking and finance in Australia and the United States before joining leading transport company TNT Limited in 1973. In September 1992, he was appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Following the merger of TNT Limited with the Dutch-based KPN group in 1996, he remained as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Asia-Pacific Region until his resignation from the company in 1997.

David's outstanding leadership at TNT Limited earned him a prestigious appointment as independent advisor to the Australian Federal Government for over two decades. In November 1996, he was selected to conduct a review of Business Programs that resulted in "The Mortimer Report". In 2008, he was selected to conduct two further reviews: a review of export policies and programs titled "Winning in World Markets" and an assessment of Australia's defence procurement systems titled "Going to the Next Level".

During his career, David has held over 35 Chairman, Director and Board positions in a range of private, public and not-for-profit organisations with a variety of specialisations. Organisations he has served include Sydney Airports Corporation Limited, Australia Post, Crescent Capital Partners, Sigma Pharmaceuticals, Vodafone Australasia, the Australian Tourist Commission, Leighton Holdings Ltd, Ansett Australia Holdings Ltd and the Australian Graduate School of Management. He was Chairman of the Defence Procurement Advisory Board from 2004 to 2008 and a member of the Defence Strategic Reform Advisory Board. He was chosen by the Australian Government as the head of an industry panel on the Submarine Skilling Assignment in 2012, and appointed to the Australian Government Customs Reform Advisory Board the same year.

David continues to use his skills and experience to contribute to the direction and future of Australian business and education. He currently serves as Chairman of Opera Australia, Governor of the Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member of the Leadership Council of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. In 2018, he joined the Australian Institute of Business as guest lecturer, sharing his knowledge and expertise in corporate governance. He was an Expert Guest in the '2020 Exchange', which delivers contemporary and inspirational peer leadership programs supporting business leaders. He is an ambassador of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, acting as an advocate for the Foundation and supporting quality education and career opportunities for Indigenous students across Australia.

David has had a transformative impact on the financial success, management structure and performance of the Sydney University Football Club as the club's longest-serving President, retiring in 2016 after 16 years in office. Under his tenure, the club enjoyed unparalleled success, earning 13 Club Championships, 13 Colts Club Championships, 28 premierships across the grades, and 36 Colts premierships across the grades. The junior rugby program was initiated under his leadership. David's inclusive leadership style created an enduring positive culture at the club. David also serves as Chair of the Australian Schoolboys Rugby Foundation.

In 2005, David was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to business and commerce through innovative and visionary leadership, as an adviser to government, and to the community. He was appointed as a Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate in 2010 and served as Chair of the Senate's Investment and Commercialisation Committee from 2012 to 2018. He continued as Chair when the Committee evolved into the Finance and Audit Investment Subcommittee in 2018 for a further two years.

David and his wife Barbara have been long-time philanthropic supporters of the University of Sydney. In 2016, the University's new multi-sport Grandstand named its high-performance gym in honour of David as its benefactor. He has also contributed philanthropically to several other Australian cultural institutions, including Opera Australia and the Australian Haydn Ensemble.

David is recognised as one of Australia's most respected Chairmen and professional Company Directors, with exceptional knowledge and experience in managing companies in the global economy and a demonstrated ability to seek creative approaches to lead organisations through major generational disruptors. He has consistently attempted to use his experience and seniority to contribute to the wellbeing of the community, government and the broader social engagement of business. David continues to inspire the next generation of leaders to shape the future of business, sport and the arts in Australia.

Chancellor, I present David Mortimer AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*) and invite you to confer the degree upon him.