**Citation – Kevin McCann AO**

Friday, 9 December 2022 – 12.00noon

Vice-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Kevin McCann AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) in recognition of his outstanding contribution as a lawyer, to business and the wider community.

Kevin is a graduate of the University of Sydney, having completed a Bachelor of Arts in 1961 and a Bachelor of Laws with Honours in 1964. He later graduated from Harvard University with a Master of Law. His impressive legal career was launched in 1970 when he began working as a corporate commercial and resource lawyer with Allens Arthur Robinson, a leading law firm in Australia. He specialised in mergers, acquisitions, mineral and resource law and capital market transactions. After leaving the company in 2004, he served as the Independent Director then Chairman of Macquarie Group Limited, Independent Non-Executive Chairman of Origin Energy Limited and Non-Executive Director of BlueScope Steel Limited. He has also held the positions of Chairman of Healthscope Limited and Independent Chairman of Triako Resources Limited.

Kevin has devoted himself to several cultural, educational and social justice organisations. He served on the Council of the National Library of Australia from 2005-2011. From 2009, while on the Council, he chaired the advisory committee that later became the library’s Foundation Board. He continued in this role until 2018. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the expansion of the Library’s fundraising program and the initiative to digitise the Library’s collections. He championed sponsorship campaigns for several acclaimed international exhibitions, including Treasures from Australia's Great Libraries (2005-2006), Handwritten (2011-12), Mapping our World (2013-14) and Celestial Empire (2016). Kevin facilitated matching donations from the Macquarie Group Foundation during his term as Chairman of Macquarie Bank to support the development of the Library’s Treasures Gallery and Fellowship program. He and his wife Deirdre are also Gold Patrons of the Library.

He was involved in the establishment of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, an Australian Government agency responsible for the restoration, remediation and conservation of some of Sydney’s most important harbour-side heritage and environmental sites, including Cockatoo Island and Headland Park Mosman. Kevin was Chair of the Trust from 2001 to 2010 and again from 2016 to 2018. As Chair, he worked closely with the community, Government and broader stakeholders as he advocated for the restoration of many historical sites, led the delivery of substantial works and supported the cultural life of Sydney by promoting several art exhibitions. His contributions have strengthened Sydney’s reputation as a visitor destination.

In 2010, Kevin was a founding member of the Male Champions of Change, an organisation committed to working with influential leaders across business, politics and education to redefine the role of men in acting on the issue of gender inequality. He is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a not-for-profit membership organisation committed to building the capability of leaders and strengthening society through world-class governance.

Kevin has demonstrated a focus on Australia’s position on the global stage through his involvement with the United States Studies Centre at this University, which is dedicated to the rigorous analysis of American foreign policy, economics, politics and culture to draw insights into the implications for Australia of the dynamics shaping America. He is the national Co-Vice-Chair of the New Colombo Plan Reference Group and has been deeply involved with the program since its inception. The New Colombo Plan is a visionary scholarship pilot program initiated by the Federal Government that aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by providing a new generation of Australians with practical experience living, studying and gaining workplace skills in the region. By the end of 2020, the program would have allowed approximately 40,000 Australian students the opportunity to undertake cross-disciplinary fieldwork and mobility programs in the Indo-Pacific.

Kevin was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005 for his service to the law, particularly in the areas of mining, corporate and commercial law, and to business and the community. And in 2020 was awarded an Officer of the Order. He has served as a Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate, Pro‑Chancellor of the University and served on various Senate Committees, notably as Chair of the Safety and Risk Committee. Kevin continues to hold the role of Presiding Pro-Chancellor. Kevin is a philanthropic supporter of the University, having contributed funding towards the New Law School Building and towards the teaching of a postgraduate unit on Global Energy and Resources Law. He has also made charitable contributions to several Australian cultural institutions including the Sydney Opera House, the National Library of Australia and the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Kevin has led an extraordinary career in law spanning more than five decades across many major listed companies in Australia. Beyond this, he has generously used his insight and wealth of experience to act as a leader for positive change, influencing the thinking and general wellbeing of the wide community.

Vice-Chancellor, I present Kevin McCann AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the degree upon him.