

## **Citation – Romilly Madew**

### **3 October 2025, 2.30pm**

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you, Ms Romilly Madew AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Engineering (honoris causa) in recognition of her exceptional contributions to engineering, sustainable development, and leadership in the built environment.

Romilly completed her secondary education at Pymble Ladies' College in 1984 and later graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics. Her career began in Canberra with Mallesons Stephen Jaques, subsequently serving as Executive Director of the ACT office of the Property Council of Australia.

She went on to champion green building initiatives in her capacity as Chief Executive Officer of the Green Building Council of Australia and Director of the World Green Building Council. Use of the Council's Green Star rating system expanded under her leadership, becoming the benchmark for sustainability in the construction and built environment sectors, influencing the design, construction, and operation of buildings and communities throughout Australia.

During her time as Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure Australia, Ms Madew provided strategic guidance on the integration of sustainability principles into infrastructure planning and development and helped shape policies and practices to ensure Australia's infrastructure becomes resilient, sustainable, and fit for the future. Under Ms Madew's leadership, Infrastructure Australia developed a landmark program to analyse infrastructure market capacity, which now underpins Commonwealth investment decisions and guided reform priorities for the engineering profession. In 2019, Ms Madew was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to the construction sector as a change agent, and commitment to sustainable building practices.

Romilly continues to drive the agenda for innovation, sustainability, and diversity within the engineering profession in her current capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Engineers Australia. She serves on the STEM and Health Champions of Change Committee, and holds prominent appointments including, Director of Placemaking NSW Board and Independent Chair of the Currawong State Park Advisory Board (NSW). She is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE) Infrastructure Forum, Industry Skills Australia, the Infrastructure Net Zero Steering Committee and the UK's Institution of Civil Engineers Enabling Better Infrastructure Steering Group. Her leadership has been instrumental in positioning engineering as a key driver of Australia's future prosperity, particularly in the context of climate change, urbanisation, and the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Romilly has also worked tirelessly to promote the participation of women in engineering, advocating for equitable opportunities and supporting initiatives to increase the representation of women in leadership roles within the industry. She is the Federal Governments G20 EMPOWER – Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation, was previously a Federal Government appointee on the Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group and served on the board of Chief Executive Women.

Ms Madew's advocacy and sustainability efforts reach far beyond engineering. She is Co-founder and Director of Minerva Network—a not-for-profit organisation supporting professional sportswomen through mentoring, development programs, networking opportunities and scholarships. Minerva aims to “ensure female athletes' on-field success is adequately recognised and commercialised off the field.” She also mentors two-time Olympic rower, and World Champion medallist, Georgie Rowe. Her ongoing service to the community is also evident in her roles as the former President and current, Patrol Captain of Bilgola Surf Life Saving Club and Duty Officer for Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Branch. She received a National Medal this year in recognition of her service to surf lifesaving and became the first female Life Member of the Club.

Romilly's passion for education and mentorship has had a profound impact on the next generation of engineers and sustainability professionals. She has been named one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence and has received several industry accolades for her leadership in sustainability and infrastructure development. These include the 2015 US Green Building Council International Leadership Award, the 2017 World Green Building Council Chairman's Award, and the 2021 City Visionary Award of the Sydney Awards.

Ms Madew's visionary leadership and commitment to sustainability have profoundly influenced Australia's built environment and inspires a generation of engineers and professionals to prioritise environmental stewardship in their work.

Pro-Chancellor, I present Romilly Madew for admission to the degree of Doctor of Engineering (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the degree upon her.