**Citation – The Hon Mike Baird AO**

Wednesday, 12 October 2022 – 2.30pm

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present The Honourable Mike Baird AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Business (honoris causa) for his outstanding contribution in the fields of government, business and the non-for-profit sector.

Mike has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Sydney and started his career at the National Australia Bank in Sydney. He went on to hold senior roles in NAB’s corporate and institutional banking team in Australia and London, including Global Relationship Manager and Head of Debt Capital Markets Originations based in London. He was a Senior Corporate Finance Manager at Deutsche Bank and Head of Corporate and Institutional Banking at HSBC in Australia and New Zealand. While fulfilling these roles, Mike also completed executive management courses at Harvard and Duke University.

Mike entered NSW state politics in 2007, upon his election to the NSW Legislative Assembly in the seat of Manly. Less than two years after entering parliament, he was appointed as Shadow Treasurer, having previously held the shadow portfolios of Finance, Energy, Commerce and Youth Affairs. In 2011, he was appointed NSW Treasurer, which reflected his strong finance sector background and communications skills. In 2014, he was appointed Premier of New South Wales, a role he held for three years.

Mike has been a committed servant of the community throughout his life. While in NSW Parliament and particularly when he was Treasurer, Mike helped reinvigorate the country's largest state economy and revived the private sector's role in Australian infrastructure. Mike was the key driver in the creation and funding of infrastructure projects that assisted the well-being of and improved the living standards of the entire community. This included social infrastructure projects that assisted those most in need in our community.

During his time as Premier, Mike’s integrity and passion was demonstrated frequently. He was an outspoken advocate for increasing Australia’s humanitarian intake for refugees, particularly those fleeing conflict in Syria and Iraq and he was a passionate backer of public education and the Gonski education reforms.

Mike’s efforts were praised by society, business leaders and other politicians from other States and at the Federal level. Mike’s Infrastructure plans and policies were later adopted by other states as well as by the Australian Federal Government.

Mike was and remains a key supporter of those who require and utilise aged care and in his current role as Chief Executive Officer of not-for-profit aged care company HammondCare, Mike is striving to deliver better outcomes for those in palliative and dementia care in his own business and across the industry.

In 2020, Mike was awarded an Order of Australia for his distinguished service to the people and Parliament of New South Wales and to the wider community.

Pro-Chancellor, I present The Hon Mike Baird AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Business (honoris causa) in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to government, business and the not-for-profit sector.