**Citation – David Thodey AO**

Friday, 19 May 2023 – 2.30pm

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present David Thodey AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Business (honoris causa) in recognition of his significant contributions to business, the telecommunications industry, and the public service.

After studying Anthropology and English at Victoria University of Wellington, David completed a postgraduate general management program at Northwestern University in Chicago. Early in his career, David commenced work at IBM. During his 22 years with the organisation he held several senior executive positions across the Asia Pacific before becoming Chief Executive Officer, IBM Australia and New Zealand.

In 2001, David joined Australia’s leading telecommunications company, Telstra, as Group Managing Director, and rose to Chief Executive Officer. As CEO, he successfully doubled Telstra’s value, achieved almost 95% penetration of the 4G mobile network across the country, and led a customer centred transformation of the business. He resigned in 2015 to take on roles serving both the NSW and Federal Government, as well as to serve as Chair of Australasian technology companies, Tyro and Xero. David was also appointed non‑executive director of Ramsay Health Care, Australia’s largest private hospital operator with significant hospital networks in the UK and France.

Between 2015 and 2021, David was Chair of Australia’s prestigious national scientific research agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). He oversaw the development and implementation of the 2020 strategy, which focused on benefiting Australia through impactful science and innovation. Under David’s leadership, the CSIRO continued to benefit Australian society. With every $1 invested, the CSIRO created approximately $7.6 in economic, social, and environmental value.

David has played an active role in public policy, leading a major independent review of the Australian Public Service. He also led a review of the Sydney Tech and Innovation Precinct and was then appointed by the NSW government to head the steering group to advise on the state’s Tech Central precinct.

In 2020, the then Prime Minister, Scott Morrison announced David as Deputy Chair of the Federal Government’s National COVID‑19 Coordination Common Advisory Board, a body responsible for advising the government on public-private partnerships and the coordination of responses to the social and economic impacts of the pandemic in Australia. The team was made up of significant leaders across private and not‑for‑profit sectors that successfully helped navigate Australia out of the pandemic and helped to build a bridge to recovery, providing valuable advice on supply chain issues, sovereign capability and the need for modern manufacturing and energy transition initiatives.

David has been recognised internationally and locally for his contribution to science and business and in 2017 was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to business, notably to the telecommunications and information technology sectors, to the promotion of ethical leadership and workplace diversity.

We are fortunate to have David’s skill and expertise as a member of the University’s Finance committee overseeing the University’s annual $3 billion budget.

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