**Mr Ian Baker Wall AM**

Honorary Doctorate citation, 2022

*FINAL – approved by Ian Wall 19 August*

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa): **Mr Ian Baker Wall**.

This award recognises the significant positive impact that Ian has made over many decades. His entrepreneurship and prominence in his field has been recognised by his peers – locally, nationally, and internationally. He has also shown outstanding service to the community and the University of Adelaide through significant philanthropic initiatives.

As a child Ian was interested in how things worked and was set on becoming an engineer by his early teens. A resident student at St Mark’s College in North Adelaide in the early 1950s while studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Adelaide, he was an eager participant in College life. He became a well-regarded College identity with the affectionate nickname “Prof” and was on the College Club Committee.

Supported by his wife Pamela, Ian founded EILCO – the Electronics, Instrument and Lighting Company Ltd, with university friends Alastair Wood, and Jim Bettison in 1959, with a vision to tackle a range of challenges in electronics engineering. At the time he also had a “day job” at electronics company Philips, where he helped design televisions. EILCO became Codan in the 1970s and won its first Australian Export Award for Outstanding Export Achievement. Further milestones would follow, and the company was listed on the ASX in 2003.

Ian’s impact on society through his leadership and achievement in electronics engineering has been significant. Since its early days, Codan has developed and supplied high-frequency radio equipment for the School-of-the-Air network and the Royal Flying Doctor Service across Australia. The United Nations adopted Codan radio equipment for their relief efforts in Uganda in 1980 helping establish Codan as the leading global supplier of high frequency communications to humanitarian organisations.

Ian Wall’s influence extended to broader communications with a legacy reaching deep into today’s society. Codan pioneered equipment that supported the launch of Australia’s first domestic satellite system in the 1980s and launched the world’s first commercial modem for fast and fully automatic high frequency fax and data transmission in the 1990s.

Codan Ltd is now a global high-tech company with manufacturing and corporate offices in Australia and Canada, and overseas representative offices in USA, UK, Ireland, Brazil, Denmark, Mexico, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates. The company employs more than 400 people across the globe to support the design and manufacture of a range of electronic communications, mining and defence technology and associated software used by governments, businesses, humanitarian aid and customer markets.

Ian Wall retired from his executive position at Codan in 2004 but remained on the board, stepping down in 2009 after 50 years. Together with wife Pamela, Ian is a long-term benefactor to a range of charitable organisations including St Anne’s College; the Burnside Hospital Foundation; the Starlight Children’s Foundation; Adelaide Botanic Gardens; the National Trust of South Australia; and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Ian has acknowledged that he owes much of his success in life to his time at St Mark’s College and was recognised as an Honorary Fellow of St Mark’s in 2006. Ian and Pamela have supported St Mark’s College for over 20 years and are the largest donors to the College in its history. The College’s Library is called the Ian and Pamela Wall Academic Centre and the College commissioned a joint portrait of Ian and Pamela Wall in 2021 in recognition of their philanthropic support.

Awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2008 for service to business and to the community, Ian Wall was again recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2019 for his significant service to the community through philanthropic initiatives. He is the Hall of Fame recipient of the 2016 South Australian Impact Awards, which recognise South Australian companies and business leaders with global impact and influence. Positions as National Trust SA Sir George Kingston Patron 2013-2020; Governor of the St Mark’s College Foundation; and Founding Ambassador of SAHMRI acknowledge Mr Wall’s significant philanthropic contributions.

As a graduate, donor, businessman, leader and philanthropist, Ian Wall demonstrates sustained and significant contribution through a legacy of professional excellence and support of various humanitarian and community projects. He is widely recognised by peers – both within Australia and internationally – and he brings great distinction to the University of Adelaide. Today we extend that recognition, in awarding the highest honour the University can bestow.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present to you Mr Ian Baker Wall, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Medal of the Order of Australia, Member of the Order of Australia for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).