

Peter Høj citation

Monday 29 April 2019, 11.00am

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Peter Bordier Høj.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) is being awarded to Professor Peter Høj, AC, in acknowledgement of his exceptional leadership in science, including the commercialisation of science, and to higher education.

Professor Høj was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1957. He was educated at the University of Copenhagen where he completed a Bachelor of Science (majoring in biochemistry and chemistry), Master of Science (in biochemistry and genetics) and a Doctor of Philosophy in photosynthesis.

He worked as a research scientist in Denmark and Australia before becoming Foundation Professor of Viticultural Science at the University of Adelaide in 1995.

Professor Høj has been an instrumental leader in research and in the higher education sector in Australia.

He was appointed Managing Director of the Australian Wine Research Institute in 1997, a position he held until he became the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Council in 2004. From 2007 to 2012, he was Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia, and since 2012, Professor Høj has been Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Queensland.

Professor Høj has served as a Board Member of a number of leading organisations including the Group of Eight universities, where he was Chair in 2017, the CSIRO, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, Education Australia, Open Universities Australia, Provisor Pty Ltd, the Medical Research Future Fund Advisory Board and CRC Viticulture.

He is also a member of the Council of the Confucius Institute Headquarters, the Queensland State Government's International Education and Training Advisory Group, Co-Deputy Chair of the Strengthened Export Controls Steering Group and a member of the edX University Advisory Board.

Professor Høj has previously received honorary doctorates from the University of Copenhagen and the University of South Australia, is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and is a Foreign Member (Natural Sciences Class) of The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

In 2002 he was awarded a Centenary Medal for his services to science and the Australian wine industry, and an SA Great award for science.

In December 2018, Professor Høj was announced as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

Professor Høj has demonstrated great leadership in the higher education sector, particularly in his roles on a variety of National education boards, and in his advocacy for reviewing the funding models for research-intensive universities.

Furthermore, in his roles as Vice-Chancellor and President at the University of South Australia and University of Queensland, he has continued to serve the interests of Australia's higher education sector at the highest level.

On Australia Day this year, Professor Høj was named a Companion of the Order of Australia for "eminent service to higher education and to science, particularly to the commercialisation of research, and to policy development and reform".

Chancellor, I am very pleased and proud to present to you Professor Peter Bordier Høj, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy and Companion of the Order of Australia, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).