

Mr Mark Charles Allison

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 Mark Charles Allison**.

With a wealth of leadership experience spanning technical, manufacturing, supply and distribution roles, Mark Allison has been a champion of Australian agriculture and agribusiness for over 40 years. As the Managing Director and CEO of Elders, one of Australia's oldest and largest agricultural companies, Mark has a highly successful track record of strategic leadership, turning around complex businesses for wider impact and benefit of the agricultural industry in Australia.

Born into a sugarcane and beef cattle family in Ayr, north-eastern Queensland, agriculture was a passion for Mark from an early age. Combining an Agricultural Science degree with a Bachelor of Economics at the University of Queensland provided a foundation for Mark to build a career that would make a tangible contribution to the rural and regional communities for which he cares so deeply.

Starting as a research agronomist in Queensland's Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley horticultural region, Mark also worked in cotton and broadacre cropping in north-western New South Wales. Improving the sustainability and environmental stability of the industry was also a focus through research into new varieties, technology and farming systems.

Something that many may not know about Mark, is that he is also an enthusiastic musician and has written and recorded more than 140 songs across nine albums, dabbling in multiple genres including, pop, reggae, country, folk and rock.

Transitioning away from research and into management and leadership roles, Mark has been Managing Director and CEO of CropCare Australasia, Wesfarmers CSBP, Wesfarmers Landmark, Farmoz, Incitec Fertilisers and Grain Growers Limited. He joined Elders Limited as a Non-Executive Director in December 2009, and served as Chairman and Executive Chairman. In May 2014 Mark was appointed to the position of Managing Director/CEO of Elders Limited, his seventh CEO role.

Through his strategy and leadership, Mark Allison is widely recognised for Elders' dramatic turnaround after being hit hard by the global financial crisis. Since 2014, Mark has overseen Elders evolution into a dominant and successful company with a market capitalisation that has grown from \$50 million to \$2.2 billion at its peak. He has done this through building a diversified revenue stream, and geographical spread and business model, to ensure it continues to prosper into the future.

The scope of Mark's involvement in the industry is demonstrated by the numerous non-executive director roles he has held in private, government and industry organisations including Grains and Legume Nutrition Council, CropLife Pty Ltd, Agsafe Pty Ltd, and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

After ten years in the roles, he has recently stood down as a Non-Executive Director of GrainGrowers, Chair of Grain Technology Australia, Chair of AuctionsPlus and Chair of

Agribusiness Australia. He remains a member of the Rabobank Food and Agriculture Advisory Board.

His invaluable contribution to linking research with Agricultural industries continues through his role as Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources End-User Advisory Board of the SmartSat CRC, and as co-Chair of the University of Adelaide's Agrifood and Wine Industry Advisory Board.

Mark Allison has had a significant impact on the Agribusiness sector in South Australia and nationally, both in the boardroom and at the farm gate. His leadership of many agricultural businesses over four decades, and most recently at the helm of Elders resurgence, has done much to support and strengthen the Agricultural industry and the rural communities it serves.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present to you **Mr Mark Charles Allison**, Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Bachelor of Economics, Graduate Diploma of Management, Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).