

Mr Michael (Mick) Keogh OAM

Citation for the Conferral of Doctor of Applied Science (*honoris causa*)

It is my privilege to present to you Mr Michael Keogh OAM, known as Mick Keogh, for the honorary award of Doctor of the University.

Mr Keogh was born in Wagga and grew up on the family property at Mullengandra in southern New South Wales where he attended local primary and secondary schools.

Mr Keogh took his degree at the University of New South Wales, graduating in Wool and Pastoral Science in 1980. Post-graduation he took employment for two years as a manager of a cattle property in northern New South Wales, after which he returned to the University of NSW to undertake research for which he was awarded a Master degree in Applied Science.

Mr Keogh then worked as an agricultural consultant for eight years before taking a position as Executive Officer, Wool and Western Division with NSW Farmers Association, the State association which is the lobby group for the rights of farmers and rural communities. In 1998 he was appointed Policy Director and then as General Manager Policy also at NSW Farmers Association. It is in this role that Mick Keogh established himself as a credible, well-respected, high profile voice for agriculture.

In 2003, the Australian Farm Institute was established as a 'not-for-profit' organisation to conduct research into public policy issues impacting on the Australian agricultural sector. The intention of the Institute is to promote solutions that maximise profitability and sustainability of the sector. It was the first organisation of this type in Australia to focus solely on the agricultural industries. Mr Keogh was its foundation Executive Director, a position he held for 15 years. During his term as Executive Director, the Institute published 50 issues of the Farm Policy Journal and completed over 40 research reports.

The reputation of the Australian Farm Institute is outstanding, being the 'go-to' organisation for agricultural policy research. The Institute is noted for its integrity and independence and its publications are regularly quoted in parliaments around Australia.

That reputation was built on the shoulders of Mr Keogh who became the wise, balanced, constructive expert and spokesperson on all things agriculture both nationally and internationally.

During his time at the Australian Farm Institute, Mr Keogh was also appointed Chairperson of the Australian Government panel which reviewed drought support measures, and Chairman of the Australian Government's National Rural Advisory Council from 2012 to 2015. Other appointments included the Australian Government's Emission Reduction Assurance Council, CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship Advisory Council, Council of the Western Sydney University Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, and the Primary Industries Ministerial Advisory Council of New South Wales.

In February 2016 Mr Keogh was appointed as Commissioner for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and was appointed as its Deputy Chair in June 2018. In that role he has had oversight of the small business, franchising and agriculture units of the Commission.

In 2015, Mr Keogh was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to agriculture.

I present Mr Mick Keogh OAM, outstanding leader in agriculture, for the award of Doctor of the University (*Honoris Causa*).

Dated this Sixteenth Day of December Two Thousand and Nineteen