

THOMAS (TOM) MURPHY

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*)

Pro Chancellor, it is a privilege to present to you and to this gathering, for the award of Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*), Associate Professor Thomas Murphy.

The University Council has resolved to confer this award on Associate Professor Thomas ("Tom") Murphy in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education and regional business.

Tom has had an extensive career as an applied economist in a number of different sectors.

In 2012, he retired from the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Western Research Institute (WRI), a position he had held since the establishment of the WRI in February 1999. Prior to taking up the position as CEO of WRI, Tom had held academic positions as senior lecturer in Economics and Director of the Regional Economics Research Unit in the Faculty of Commerce, Charles Sturt University (CSU), Bathurst, and positions at the University of New England and Macquarie University. As an academic, Tom was also a member of the NSW Higher School Certificate Economics Syllabus Committee from 1983 until 1993.

As a teacher, Tom has taught a very wide range of subjects at both undergraduate and postgraduate level including theoretical and applied economics as well as finance and management. He has taught in China for CSU and has been a guest lecturer for the University of New England, Macquarie University, the University of Technology Sydney, and Chifley Business School. Tom has also supervised honours and masters degree students and was a PhD examiner for University of Queensland and the University of Wollongong.

Before becoming an academic, Tom had been involved in public sector decision-making as an Economic Analyst with the Office of National Assessments in Canberra, where he had responsibility for the ASEAN economies. He was reacquainted with public sector decision-making in 2002 when he accepted the role of Chair of the Cox's River Water Management Committee. Tom has also spent time in the private sector as Senior Consultant with KPMG Peat Marwick Management Consultants.

Tom's eclectic background ensured that he was always going to make a success of his role at the WRI. Under Tom's leadership, WRI completed more than 500 projects for all levels of government, industry groups such as Australian Pork, the Chicken Meat Federation and the Tourism Taskforce, businesses such as Delta Electricity, BlueScope Steel and V8 Supercars, financial institutions such as Westpac and Perpetual Regional Infrastructure Fund, regional development boards and community groups, and educational institutions including universities, TAFE and schools in NSW, Victoria and Queensland. Under Tom's leadership, the WRI rapidly became the leading research and consulting group in regional Australia.

Tom's particular expertise is in regional economics and labour markets having gained a Bachelor of Economics with first class honours from the University of New England in 1972 and a Master of Science (Economics) from the University of Lancaster in the United Kingdom in 1977. He has published in a wide range of economic subject areas and

established a high local media profile in Western NSW for economic and social commentary, featuring regularly on national radio particularly in connection to the quarterly agribusiness survey conducted for Westpac Australia-wide.

Pro Chancellor, I now present Associate Professor Thomas Murphy, an outstanding economic leader and teacher, who has made, in the words of Charles Napier Sturt, a significant contribution to the “public good” by making an outstanding contribution to regional business and the regional communities of Australia.

Dated this Twentieth Day of December Two Thousand and Thirteen