

ROSS GREGORY GARNAUT

CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Mr Chancellor, it is my privilege to present for a degree of the University, Professor Ross Gregory Garnaut.

Ross Garnaut is arguably the most influential Australian academic economist of his generation, certainly in the public policy domain. Currently a Distinguished Professor at this University and Vice Chancellor's Fellow and Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne, he has been at the centre of major economic policy debates and decision-making in Australia and our region for almost four decades. He has also had a major influence globally in thinking about the development of the Chinese economy, the management of resource booms in small, resource-rich economies, Asia-Pacific economic integration, and the economics of climate change.

His career has encompassed notable public policy contributions. As the most influential expatriate economic advisor at the time of independence in Papua New Guinea in 1975, he successfully laid the macroeconomic policy foundations for the subsequent two decades. Ross Garnaut served as Australian Ambassador to China from 1985 to 1988, a crucial and formative period in the development of one of Australia's most important bilateral relationships. In 1989, he completed the most influential public report arguing the case for Australia's engagement with the Asia-Pacific economies, Australia and the Northeast Asian Ascendancy.

Ross Garnaut's service to Government includes serving as the principal economic advisor in the office of Prime Minister Hawke from 1983 to 1985. During that time, he helped guide what is arguably the most important economic reform agenda in Australia's post-war history. Lately, he has been principal external advisor on the economics of climate change to the present Government, work which culminated in the publication of the Garnaut Climate Change Review in 2008 by Cambridge University Press.

A scholarship boy at Perth Modern School, Ross Garnaut was chosen as one of the national group of undergraduate 'Stats Cadets' to attend the ANU and went on to complete his PhD at the ANU in 1972, on Australia's trade with Southeast Asia. He has been a member of staff since 1976, including as Professor of Economics in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies from 1989 to 2008. For much of that period, he led and encouraged Australia's largest concentration of academics working on the economies of the Asia-Pacific region, a program that is internationally recognized as a world leader. He has chaired the ANU's China Economy and Business Program since its foundation in 1989 and he also chairs the Editorial Boards of the ANU-based journals, Asian-Pacific Economic Literature and the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies.

Ross Garnaut has made significant intellectual contributions in the fields of Asian and Australian economic development, international trade, macroeconomics, public finance and political economy. His co-authored work on the taxation of mining resources, first published in the Economic Journal and later as a Clarendon Press book, has influenced policy making in several resource-rich economies, including Australia. For the past three decades he has been one of the world's most influential thinkers on Asia-Pacific economic integration, and he played a key role in developing and executing Australia's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation initiative in 1989. His two-volume edited collection on China's economic development (Oxford University Press, 2001) is regarded as a seminal work on that country's transition from plan to market. In all, he is the author or editor of 37 books, in addition to many book chapters and journal articles.

Ross Garnaut holds or has held a number of senior advisory and executive positions. These include Chairman of the International Food Policy Research Institute (Washington DC), Chairman of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and Chairman of the Papua New Guinea Sustainable Development Program, as well as Chairman of several large Australian and international public companies.

Ross Garnaut was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1993 for his services to education, particularly in the field of economics, and to international relations.

Mr Chancellor, it is with pleasure that I present to you Ross Gregory Garnaut, that you may confer on him the Degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on the grounds of his outstanding achievement as a scholar in the field of economics and his outstanding contributions in the service of society.

Professor Ian Chubb AC
Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University
11 December 2009