

Chancellor

Ms Catherine Tanna is an exceptional business leader and industry pioneer who has influenced growth and opportunities for people both in and outside Australia.

The University of Queensland alumna grew up in the central Queensland city of Gladstone, where her parents prized education as the key legacy they could give their three children.

She graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Laws in 1984, and practised as a lawyer in Brisbane and then London before returning to Australia and shifting to the resources and energy sector.

For more than two decades Ms Tanna has served as a senior executive of some of the world's largest resources and energy companies, and is now Managing Director of EnergyAustralia.

During the late 1990s and early 2000s she was based in cities including the Hague, London, Melbourne, Moscow, and Singapore. She helped steer massive projects including Russia's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant, and oversaw gas transmission and power generation in Africa, North Asia, North America and Latin America.

In 2009 Ms Tanna was recruited by BG (formerly British Gas), as Managing Director of its Australian business, QGC, and Executive Vice President for Australia and China. More than a career opportunity, this was also a personally profound homecoming. It was an opportunity to lead a momentous venture in Gladstone – the city which her father, the late Reg Tanna (a UQ civil engineering graduate) had helped build into a bustling industrial port hub.

When opened in 2014, the \$20.4 billion Curtis Island venture was not only a first for Australia and BG's largest investment anywhere in the world, it was also a first for the world in converting coal seam gas into LNG. Today it contributes to an industry which pays hundreds of millions dollars in royalties to Queensland, directly employs some 8000 people state-wide, and is seen by the International Energy Agency as part of the transition to a lower-carbon economy.

In 2012, with project construction in full swing, Ms Tanna became Chairman of BG Australia, a position she held until her EnergyAustralia appointment in 2014.

She is a respected voice in the national energy debate, and has set a standard for gender equity in her sector, with EnergyAustralia closing the gender pay gap this year.

During the course of her career she has had two daughters and performed numerous other significant roles, including mentoring. Ms Tanna was the first Queensland woman appointed to the Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia and is currently serving a second term. She is also on the board of the Business Council of Australia, and is a past member of the 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation board, the Australian G20 business body, the Lowy Institute's Advisory Committee, and the Catholic Foundation Board.

In 2015, UQ was proud to present her with a Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award.

Chancellor, I present to you Ms Catherine Tanna, Bachelor of Laws of this University, for the award of Doctor of Business honoris causa, bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.