

2015 UQ DECEMBER GRADUATION CEREMONIES

**Wednesday 16 December 2015 – 2.00pm
UQ Centre, Union Road, UQ St Lucia Campus**

Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology

CITATION FOR DR JOHN NUTT AM

Chancellor

Dr John Nutt, AM, is one of the most influential civil engineers of his generation, who has helped shape contemporary urban living and realise some of the modern world's most ambitious and iconic public buildings.

After he attained a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with honours while living in King's College at The University of Queensland, Dr Nutt's mentor, Professor John Lavery, helped him find a position in England. At the University of Manchester he lectured and undertook a PhD, and in 1960 he was recruited by the London headquarters of Ove Arup and Partners.

While working on the United Kingdom's tallest building of the era he applied the then-novel techniques of computerised modelling and wind tunnel testing.

Then came an opportunity to apply his skills to a daring project in his birth country: the Sydney Opera House. His capabilities proved crucial to overcoming challenges with the famously complex roof, and he will long be esteemed as part of the team that delivered one of the world's most distinctive buildings.

In 1963 Dr Nutt co-established Arup's Australian practice. By the time he retired 36 years later it had grown into a network of 500 staff in 10 cities, and he was simultaneously Global Chairman of Arup Partnerships, and an Arup Director in London, New York and Hong Kong.

Like the Sydney Opera House, Dr Nutt's other contributions to engineering, design and great global cities stand the test of time.

He chaired the Fire Code Reform Centre, which led to improvements in Australian building regulations that have been adapted internationally. They have enabled innovative buildings, improved safety, and saved billions of dollars in construction costs.

A host of landmarks bear his stamp. These include sites for the Sydney 2000 Olympics; the Hong Kong International Airport terminal; Governor Phillip Tower in Sydney; the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games stadium; a Manhattan subway extension; and exhibition centres in Brisbane, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney.

Throughout his career Dr Nutt has demonstrated a deep respect for architects, believing that when they collaborate effectively with engineers the results are far greater than the sum of their parts. This ethos contributed to The University of Queensland's move to bring architecture and engineering into one faculty.

He is celebrated by his peers and by younger professionals whom he has mentored. His many honorary roles have included Vice-President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE). His extensive list of accolades includes an ATSE Clunies Ross Lifetime Award; a John Connell Gold Medal for Structural Engineering and a Peter Nicol Russell Memorial Medal (both from Engineers Australia); and a Centenary Medal. He is a Fellow of King's College at The University of Queensland.

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Chancellor, I present to you Dr John Nutt, Member of the Order of Australia, Bachelor of Engineering with honours of this University, Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Manchester, Doctor of Science *honoris causa* of Macquarie University, Doctor of Engineering *honoris causa* of the University of Sydney, Doctor of Engineering *honoris causa* of the University of Technology Sydney, Honorary Fellow of The Institution of Engineers Australia, Fellow of The Institution of Structural Engineers, and Fellow of the Australian Academic of Technological Sciences and Engineering, for the award of Doctor of Engineering *honoris causa*, bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.