

MR LEIGH CLIFFORD AO

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Leigh Clifford is one of Australia's most accomplished corporate leaders as well as a qualified mining engineer, having graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) with first class honours, and a Master of Engineering Science. Mr Clifford began his career working for what is now Rio Tinto as an Assistant Surveyor underground at Broken Hill and went on to become the CEO of Rio Tinto from 2000 to 2007, and upon his retirement left the company in a strong position having made some key changes in his time, including the emergence of China as a key customer. His career at Rio Tinto was marked by a determination to modernise – whether in the use of technology, work practices or microeconomic reform.

In 2007 Mr Clifford moved into the position of Chairman of Qantas, and brought with him the lessons he learned in mining to lead one of the world's most iconic airlines. He held the position until 2018, steering the airline through a transformative period.

Mr Clifford is Chairman of Crestone Wealth Management, a Director of Bechtel Group Inc and Chairman of Bechtel Australia Pty Ltd, a global engineering, construction firm. He is a Senior Advisor to Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR), a leading global investment firm. He was previously a director of Barclays Bank in the UK and also of Freeport-McMoRan a global copper miner.

Mr Clifford is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and of the Institute of Engineers Australia and has formerly served on Australian and international industry bodies. In 2008, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to business through executive roles in the mining industry, to the promotion of international trade and the development of export markets, and to the arts. The same year he received the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's Institute Medal for outstanding leadership of the Minerals Industry globally through his eminent contribution to the CRA/Rio Tinto Group, active promotion of professional development, the advancement of Indigenous employment in the Australian mining industry and recognition of the importance of sustainable development.

Mr Clifford is a supporter of the arts having held positions as a member of the Council of Trustees of the National Gallery of Victoria, and the Chairman of the National Gallery of Victoria Foundation, alongside numerous other roles including as the Chairman of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

He is an alumnus of International House. Mr Clifford has taken up voluntary leadership and advisory roles within the University's Campaign and the Melbourne School of Engineering. He is currently the Chair of the Campaign Chairs Group. He was the Deputy Chair of the former Campaign Board and a Member of the former Campaign Coordination Committee. He is a former member of the Engineering Advisory Panel and is Chair of the Robert Menzies Institute at the University.

Leigh Clifford has and continues to make an impactful contribution to industry and society, and the Melbourne School of Engineering enthusiastically support his nomination for an Honorary Doctorate of Laws.