

Citation for Mr James White McDowell LLB (Hons)
Wednesday 24 April, 2019 at 10:30am

Officiator: Ms Pauline Carr, Chancellor

Award being conferred: Doctor of the University (DUniv)

**Citation delivered by: Professor Marie Wilson, Pro Vice Chancellor
(Business and Law).**

Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit. It is my pleasure to present Mr James White McDowell for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.

Mr Jim McDowell is the Chief Executive of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in South Australia.

A former Chief Executive of BAE Systems in Australia and Saudi Arabia, Mr McDowell is well placed to guide the South Australian public sector as it seeks to take full advantage of the Commonwealth's naval shipbuilding program and other defence contracts based in South Australia.

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Mr McDowell completed a law degree with honours at the University of Warwick (England) in 1977. He worked in legal, commercial and marketing roles with aerospace company Bombardier Shorts for the next 18 years.

Mr McDowell joined British Aerospace in Singapore in August 1996. In 1999, he was appointed Regional Managing Director of BAE Systems for Asia, following the merger of British Aerospace and Marconi Electronic Systems and based in Hong Kong. Upon taking over at BAE Systems Australia, he established the company's headquarters in Adelaide, South Australia where he lives.

Mr McDowell is a passionate supporter of continuing education and served as Chancellor of the University of South Australia until 2018 when he left to become

the Chief Executive of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in the South Australian government.

He has in-depth experience in corporate governance having served, mainly as Chair, on a range of boards including the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Air Warfare Destroyer Principals Council, Total Construction Pty Ltd and Australian Defence Accelerator Ltd. He is a non-executive director of both Codan Ltd and Austal Ltd and a board Member of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute Council, the Royal Automobile Association (RAA), the Adelaide Football Club and St Peter's College Council of Governors.

Mr McDowell acts in a number of advisory roles to the Minister and to the Department of Defence as a member of the First Principles Review Oversight Board, the Expert Advisory Panel for Australia's Future Submarine Project and Naval Shipbuilding Plan Development.

Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Mr James White McDowell for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.