

THE BATHURST LECTURE 2022

Thursday 25 August 2022

Banco Court, Sydney

Introduction of Mr David Gonski AC

- 1 I add my welcome to all who are in attendance: judicial colleagues, members of the Bar, solicitors, members of the business community, corporate regulators, scholars and students.
- 2 The adage that if you want something done well and efficiently, you give it to a busy person could have been conceived with David Gonski AC in mind.
- 3 After trouncing Justice Tony Meagher at UNSW Law School, then in its second year, David Gonski became a highly accomplished corporate lawyer who rose to partnership at Freehills at record pace under the mentorship of the great and generous Justice Kim Santow (as he was to become).
- 4 Although he left the law at a relatively young age, he never left behind the rigours of his legal training and the analytical skills he developed in its practice. You can read about his journey in the marvellously entitled set of selected speeches “I gave a Gonski”.
- 5 Measured by the number and nature of his appointments and engagements, Australia has no more experienced or distinguished company director than David Gonski. That corporate engagement has been matched by his immense contribution to public life through membership of cultural, philanthropic and educational boards, as long time Chancellor of the University of New South Wales and as author of the eponymous Gonski Review.
- 6 That David Gonski has chaired most of the boards on which he has sat and organisations of which he has been a member is powerful testament to the

esteem in which he is held by his peers and his capacity for hard work and outstanding leadership.

- 7 How fortunate therefore is this audience to have the opportunity of having him address us this evening.

- 8 There should be greater engagement between those engaged in business and lawyers and judges engaged in the practice and administration of commercial and corporate law. The annual Bathurst Lecture provides an excellent forum for such engagement and cross-fertilisation, reflecting Tom Bathurst's own "feel" for commerce, his facility in advising leading corporations as a barrister and then sitting on complex commercial and corporations disputes in his celebrated tenure as Chief Justice.

- 9 It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I invite David Gonski to deliver the fourth Bathurst Lecture on the topic of "Issues affecting company directors in relation to cyber security".