

APPENDIX I

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTORS



Senator the Honourable Eric Abetz has served as a Senator for the State of Tasmania since 1994. Born in Stuttgart, Germany and educated at the University of Tasmania where he graduated with degrees in Arts and Law, he practised as a solicitor in Hobart and was appointed to the Senate for the state of Tasmania in 1994. He was Special Minister of State in the Howard Government from 2001 to 2006, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation from 2006 to 2007, and Minister for Employment in the Abbott Government from 2013 to 2015. He also served as Manager of Government Business in the Senate in 2007, and Leader of the Government in the Senate from 2013 to 2015.

Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC was educated at Ballarat High School, Wesley College and the University of Melbourne, where he subsequently took up what was to prove an illustrious career both as an academic historian and an author. After 15 years in the Economic History department (1962-77), the last nine of them as Professor of Economic History, he became the Ernest Scott Professor of History in 1977 until he retired from this post (and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts) in 1987. At the United Nations in New York in 1988, he was one of five intellectuals who were awarded gold medals for "excellence in the dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of mankind". Both before that time, and since, he has been a prolific author, with such works as *The Peaks of Lyell* (1954), *Mines in the Spinifex* (1960), *The Tyranny of Distance* (1966), and *Triumph of the Nomads* (1975). More recently, he has produced such best-sellers as *A Short History of the World* (2000) and *The Story of Australia's People Volume 1: The Rise and Fall of Ancient Australia*, which won the Prime Minister's Literary Awards for History. He was awarded a Companion of the Order

of Australia in 2000 for his service to academia, research and scholarship. He has served on a wide range of boards and committees, including as Chairman of the Australia Council, a Governor of the Ian Potter Foundation and a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial. The National Trust lists Blainey as one of Australia's 'Living Treasures'.

Professor Judith Brett is an Emeritus Professor of Politics at La Trobe University. Educated at the University of Melbourne, she joined the Politics Department at La Trobe University in 1989 to teach and research Australian Politics, Political Biography and Political History until her retirement in 2012. She has authored numerous works on Australian political history, including the award-winning *Robert Menzies' Forgotten People* (2007), *Australian Liberals and the Moral Middle Class* (2003) and *From Secret Ballot to Democracy Sausage: How Australia Got Compulsory Voting* (2019). Her 2017 biography of Alfred Deakin, *The Enigmatic Mr Deakin*, won the 2018 National Biography Award. She writes regularly for *The Monthly* on contemporary Australian politics.

The Honourable John Brumby, AO graduated in commerce from The University of Melbourne in 1974 and then attained a Diploma of Education. A teacher, he was elected to the Federal Parliament as the Member for Bendigo in 1983. During his seven years in Federal Parliament he was Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Employment, Education and Training. In 1993, he entered the Victorian Parliament and was Leader of the Opposition until 1999. After Labor was elected to Government he served as a senior Minister, most notably as Victoria's longest serving Treasurer, and as Premier of Victoria from 2007 to 2010. Since leaving Government and

political life in 2010, Mr Brumby has taken on a range of roles in the business, not for profit and university sectors. He is chair of a number of business organisations and he teaches as an Enterprise Professor at the University of Melbourne. In the not-for-profit sector Mr Brumby is Chair of the Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute and the Fred Hollows Foundation, and the Chancellor of La Trobe University. He was awarded an Order of Australia in 2017 for distinguished service to the Parliament of Victoria, to economic management and medical biotechnology innovation, to improved rural and regional infrastructure, and to the community.

The Honourable Ian Callinan, AC graduated from the University of Queensland and was called to the Queensland Bar in 1965. Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1978, he served as President of the Queensland Bar Association and as President of the Australian Bar Association, before his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Australia from 1997 to 2007. Outside the law, he has served as the Chairman of Trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery and on the Council of the National Gallery of Australia. He has been the President of the Samuel Griffith Society since 2010.

The Honourable Alex Chernov, AC, QC was born in Lithuania and immigrated to Australia as a young boy. He was educated at Melbourne High School and then at the University of Melbourne where he gained the degrees of Bachelor of Commerce and Laws (Hons). In 1968, he signed the Roll of Counsel at the Victorian Bar and in 1980, was appointed Queens Counsel in Victoria. Whilst a barrister, he played a significant role in the leadership of the legal profession and legal education in Australia and in our region. His career includes Independent Lecturer in Equity for the Council of

Legal Education, Honorary Consultant to the Australian Law Reform Commission, Chairman of the Victorian Bar, Vice President of the Australian Bar Association, President of the Australian Law Council and Vice President of LawAsia. In 1997, he was appointed a Judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Victoria and, in 1998, was appointed to its Court of Appeal. In 1992, he became a member of the Council of the University of Melbourne and in 2004, he was elected a Deputy Chancellor of the University of Melbourne before he was elected as its Chancellor in 2009. Alex Chernov was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2008 and was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2012 Australia Day Honours. He was sworn in as the 28th Governor of Victoria on 8 April 2011.

Dr Murray Cranston was educated at the University of Queensland and the Australian National University. A senior adviser on the staff of Commonwealth Treasurer the Honourable Joshua Frydenberg, he has previously worked for Prime Minister Tony Abbott, and Senators Bill O’Chee and Jeannie Ferris. In 2008 he worked in the office of Senator Jay Rockefeller IV (Democrat, West Virginia) on a fellowship from the American Political Science Association.

Peter Dunning, QC was educated at Anglican Church Grammar School and the University of Queensland, where he obtained a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws. A barrister since 1992, in 2005 he was appointed a Queen’s Counsel. Between 2014 and 2019 held a commission as the Solicitor-General for Queensland. In that role Peter has appeared many times in the High Court of Australia and other courts for the State of Queensland in the full range of constitutional, native title and public law cases.

Eddy Gisonda, Conference Convenor of The Samuel Griffith Society, is a barrister practising at the Victorian Bar. He has been a solicitor, a tutor and lecturer at the University of Melbourne, an associate to Justice Kenneth Hayne in the High Court of Australia, and legal counsel to the Premier of Victoria.

The Honourable Nicholas Hasluck, AM, QC, is a novelist, poet, and a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. He was educated at the University of Western Australia and the University of Oxford (Wadham College). Among the many posts he has held are Chair of the Literature Board of the Australia Council and President of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal of Western Australia.

Alister Henskens, SC, MP is the Cabinet Secretary for New South Wales and has been the Member for Ku-ring-gai in the Parliament of New South Wales since 2015. Educated at the University of Sydney and the University of Toronto, he was admitted to legal practice in New South Wales in 1987, before being called to the bar in 1996. Prior to his election to Parliament, he specialised in general commercial, insolvency, banking, defamation, building and construction law and was appointed silk in 2011. Since his election, he has also served as the Parliamentary Secretary for Finance and as Chair of numerous Parliamentary Committees.

The Honourable John Middleton graduated from the University of Melbourne as Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and from the University of Oxford as Bachelor of Civil Law (First Class Honours), where he was the Winter Williams Scholar. He was admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1976. After serving as Associate to Sir Ninian Stephen, then Justice of the

High Court of Australia, he was called to the Bar in 1979 where he practised predominantly in Constitutional and Administrative Law, Resources Law and Commercial Law. He was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel for the State of Victoria in 1991 and subsequently became Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council. He was one of the leading barristers in the country. He was appointed a Justice of the Federal Court of Australia in 2006, Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal in 2009, presidential member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 2010, and a part-time Commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission. His extra-curial activities include being a Council Member of The University of Melbourne, a member of The American Law Institute, a Council Member of the National Judicial College of Australia, a member of Judicial Liaison Committee for Australian Centre for Commercial International Arbitration, and a Board member of the Victorian Bar Foundation.

The Honourable Geoffrey Nettle, AC graduated in economics from the Australian National University, in law from the University of Melbourne and as a Bachelor of Civil Law from the University of Oxford. He was admitted to legal practice in 1977 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1982. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1992. He practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, equity, taxation and constitutional matters. In 2002 he was appointed a judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and in 2004 he was appointed a judge of the Victorian Court of Appeal. In 2015, he was appointed a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

Professor Peter Ridd was educated at James Cook University, obtaining a PhD in 1980, before he went on to become a professor of physics and, later, head of the University's Department of Physics and Marine Geophysical Laboratory. A member of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, his research primarily focused on ocean currents and the movement of sediment, until his position was terminated by James Cook University in 2018.

Laureate Professor Cheryl Saunders, AO is an eminent law teacher and legal scholar with specialist interests in constitutional law and comparative public law. Educated at Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School and the University of Melbourne, she was the first woman to be appointed as a professor to the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Law, she was also a founding director of its Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies. She has been awarded several honours in recognition of her work. In 1994 she was appointed an officer of the Order of Australia "for service to the law and to public administration" and in 2003 she received the Centenary Medal. She was elected to the Legion of Honour in France for services to the *Académie Internationale de Droit Constitutionnel* and she is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. She was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in July 2018.

Michael Sexton, SC has been Solicitor-General of New South Wales since 1998. After graduating in Law from the University of Melbourne he was admitted to practice in Victoria in 1970 and was an Associate to Sir Edward McTiernan of the High Court of Australia from 1971 to 1972. He then studied at the University of Virginia and worked for a period in the United

States. He joined the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in 1975 and was subsequently attached to the staff of the Attorney-General. He lectured in the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales from 1976 to 1984. From 1996 to 1998 he was chairman of the NSW State Rail Authority. A frequent book reviewer for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, he is the author of a number of books on Australian politics and history. In the area of public administration, he has been chairman of the NSW State Rail Authority and a board member of the NSW Public Transport Authority, the NSW Library, the Sydney Writers' Festival and the University of Technology Council.

Professor Judith Sloan is an economist, company director and Honorary Professorial Fellow with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne. She was educated at Lauriston Girls School, Melbourne, the University of Melbourne and the London School of Economics. After tutoring in economics at Melbourne University, she became a Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University of South Australia, before becoming Professor of Labour Studies at that University in 1989 and Director of that Institute in 1991. She has also held various government appointments, including Commissioner of the Productivity Commission, Commissioner of the Australian Fair Pay Commission, and Deputy Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

