

## Hon John Luxton, QSO

### Lincoln University Honorary Degree, Doctor of Science

2016

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A recipient of the Queen's Service Order and an A.C. Cameron Award winner, John Luxton is also a former parliamentarian and Minister of the Crown. He served as a Member of Parliament for 15 years from 1987 to 2002, holding the Matamata/Karapiro seat.

He was a Minister for nine of those years, during which time his roles were varied and an indication of his broad interests, knowledge and abilities. They included Minister of Energy, Minister of Housing, Minister of Māori Affairs, Minister of Police, Minister of Commerce and Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries, Forestry and Lands. He was responsible for a number of significant policy and legislative changes in New Zealand.

Mr Luxton is Co-Chair of the Waikato River Authority, Chair of the Asia New Zealand Foundation and of Hauraki Iwi owned Pouarua Farm Partnership, and a Director of Wallace Corporation, Tatua Co-op Dairy Company, and a number of private farming companies. He has served on the boards of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Landcare Research and Dexcel, and was a trustee of the Morrinsville Art Gallery Trust, and the Massey University Foundation. He and his wife Mary Scholtens QC are long time patrons of the New Zealand Arts Festival. He was also a member of the Government Constitutional Advisory Panel.

Before entering politics, Mr Luxton spent seven years as an international agriculture consultant in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. He retains extensive farming interests in both the North and South Islands, supplying Fonterra, Tatua and Westland Dairy companies. He is also a former Chair of the Tatua Co-op Dairy Company and a founder of the Open Country Dairies and Kaimai Cheese companies. He was also a member of the inaugural Kellogg Leadership course at Lincoln, and has participated in successive courses until last year.

Mr Luxton recently stepped down from his position as the inaugural chairman of DairyNZ in 2015 after eight years in the role. He played a key role in DairyNZ committing to be one of the founding partners of the planned Lincoln Hub innovation cluster. In doing so, he recognised that the growth of dairy farming in the South Island provided an opportunity for DairyNZ involvement in this innovative project to co-locate pan organisational science and research clusters, and provide a portal for business to engage with science and research, and facilitate collaboration.

He has always been a strong advocate of the importance of sound management, science and economics as cornerstones for New Zealand agriculture and to ensuring appropriate policy settings for the sector to flourish.

His contribution to agriculture and the dairy industry in particular, deserves recognition.

Hon John Luxton QSO is therefore a worthy recipient of the 2016 Lincoln University Honorary Degree, Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

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