

2008 AARES Distinguished Life Member

The Honorable John Kerin A.M., C.M., FTSE, FAIAST



A product of the Southern Highlands of NSW, John Kerin has achieved much in his long and illustrious career of service. After early days of swinging an axe, setting bricks and farming poultry, John completed a BA at the University of New England in 1967. The 1970s saw him working for two periods as a research officer in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, between which he entered national politics as the member for Macarthur. He entered the Australian Parliament again, this time as member for Werriwa in 1978. Then followed a string of Ministerial responsibilities – Primary Industry, Primary Industries and Energy, Treasurer, Transport and Communications and most recently in the early 1990s as Minister for Trade and Overseas Development.

Since the completion of his parliamentary career in 1993, John has held a long list of Board, Chair and Committee positions. These include the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation, Coal Mines Australia Limited, Corporate Funds Investment, NSW State Forests and Deputy Chancellor of the University of West Sydney. He is currently a Board Member of CSIRO, a member of the Board of the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, and Governing Board Member for the Crawford Fund. John is a member of various professional bodies including AARES and the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, and is an Honorary Member of the Australian Veterinary Association.

John has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from three Australian universities: the University of New England (in Agricultural Science), the University of Western Sydney (in Letters) and the University of Tasmania (in Science). He was made a member of the Order of Australia in 2001 and received the Centenary Medal also in 2001.