



ALS Limited 2022 AGM report

ASX code	ALQ
Meeting date	23 August 2022
Type of meeting	Hybrid
Monitor	Kelly Buchanan
Pre AGM-meeting	No

Meeting Statistics

Number of holdings represented by ASA	56
Number of shares represented by ASA	1,777,522
Value of shares represented by ASA	\$21.4m
Total number attending meeting	104 – including 36 voting shareholders
Market capitalisation	\$5.8 billion
ASA open proxies voted	On a Poll. ASA voted in favour of all the resolutions except the one mentioned below

Although we contacted ALS prior to the AGM regarding a possible pre-AGM meeting, miscommunications prevented us from getting together. Happily, upon your monitor's arrival at the AGM venue, we made plans to organise a meeting for next year.

This was the first in-person AGM for the company since 2019. The Notice of Meeting had been released at the height of Queensland's winter wave of COVID-19 and strongly encouraged online attendance, promising "no refreshments". However, there was a good turnout of over one hundred attendees, and a light morning tea too.

The atmosphere in the room was definitely buoyant with directors genuinely happy to engage with shareholders. All directors made their way around the room both before and after the meeting and were happy to chat. This is a company with many long-standing shareholders who attend AGMs religiously. One family had travelled from Victoria specifically to attend.

The managing director, Raj Naran, gave very positive guidance for the current half flagging anticipate growth of 20% on the previous corresponding period. He also outlined the company's refreshed five-year strategy to grow revenue by 50%, earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) by 55%, improve Return on Capital Employed to more than 20% and to have a cash conversion rate of greater than 90%.

Current megatrends are impacting the business positively. Testing for such things as advancing life sciences, technological development, sustainability, and mining for the move from carbon fuels to electric fuels with attendant battery needs will all be a boon to ALS's business in the future.

The first resolution, for the re-election of Tonianne Dwyer, had a 10% 'against' vote. The Chairman was uncertain of any reason but speculated it could be a protest vote for the company not having enough females on the board. The current board has a 75/25% split between males and females respectively.

The second resolution, to re-elect NED Siddhartha Kadia, had a greater than 30% 'against' vote including the 'against' vote from ASA. We declined to support his re-election because he has far too many commitments, including his job as the CEO of a NASDAQ listed company. Dr Kadia attended the meeting via an online link from California.

All other resolutions passed with greater than 98% approval, including the company's remuneration report and the Grant of Performance Rights for the CEO.

After the meeting the ASA was briefly quoted in the Australian Financial Review for its comments and concerns on Dr Kadia's extreme workload. [Demand for battery metals helps boost testing profits: ALS \(paywall\)](#)

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