

ASX 2023 AGM report

ASX code	ASX
Meeting date	Thursday, 19 October 2023
Type of meeting	Hybrid
Monitor	Peter Gregory assisted by Sue Howes
Pre AGM-meeting	Yes with Chair Damian Roche; REM Chair, Melinda Conrad; General Manager Reward, Will Milthorpe; and General Manager IR and Sustainability, Simon Starr.

Meeting Statistics

Number of holdings represented by ASA	220
Number of shares represented by ASA	275,659
Value of shares represented by ASA	\$15.7m
Total number attending meeting	75 in person and 210 online
Market capitalisation	\$10.7 billion
ASA open proxies voted	ASA voted in favour of the resolutions for CEO performance grants and the election of Ms Carter, abstained on Mr Galvin's election (as he had retired his nomination) and against the rem report and elections of Damain Roche and Luke Randall

Shareholders sent a clear message with a 21.23% vote against the remuneration report, close to the 25% for a second strike. Notably 50% of voting shareholders voted against. Our vote against was based on the STI not being transparent and not aligning with strategy or shareholder interests. The company stated it will review the Remuneration plan for FY24 and consider the issues raised.

Mr Roche has indicated he will step down once a new Chair is found and an orderly transfer has occurred, but there has been no commitment on timing. These processes can take quite some time, particularly for a company with ASX's challenges. It is disappointing, that with all the Board renewal that has taken place, there is no succession plan.

Ms Carter gave an excellent and concise dissertation regarding the skills and experience she brings to the board.

Mr Randell indicated that he has 40 years' experience in capital markets, and the ASX operates in financial markets, he is a good fit. We found this underwhelming, particularly as we asked for the specific skills that he added to those of existing board members.

Most of the questions centred around the CHES project, the effect that past mismanagement, now it has come to light, has had on the financial aspects of the company and shareholder value. Concerns were raised by several shareholders around the lack of concrete information coming to the market regarding the details of the replacement project going forward. We share this frustration. [ASX has stated to ASIC that it](#)

[will unveil the "solution and high level project plan" for the CHES replacement project by the end of this calendar year.](#) The lack of information to shareholders is reminiscent of the way the CHES project was managed in the public domain over the last several years, before ultimately failing and resulting in a massive impairment and restart. Shareholders are entitled to feel edgy and untrusting given the circumstances.

The changing competitive position in the marketplace was also questioned, particularly given the recent legislation that removed the ASX monopoly in Clearing and Settlement. The company has indicated that it understands competition, operates as if it is in a competitive position, and is aware of the activities of exchanges in other jurisdictions. We would have liked to hear a stronger statement of how ASX will protect its revenue and margins to ensure future profit and dividends.

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