

IGO Ltd 2023 AGM report

ASX code	IGO
Meeting date	16 November 2023
Type of meeting	Hybrid
Monitor	John Campbell (Derek Miller unable to attend)
Pre AGM-meeting	With chair Mike Nossal, CFO and company secretary

Meeting Statistics

Number of holdings represented by ASA	53
Number of shares represented by ASA	386,019
Value of shares represented by ASA	\$3.4m
Total number attending meeting	75 attendees and 146 online
Market capitalisation	\$6.7 billion
ASA open proxies voted	See below

The chair's address included commentary on what was admitted to be a major mistake in the takeover of Western Areas in 2022 at a cost of \$1.26m which led to a June 2023 impairment of the Cosmos mine, the major asset acquired in the takeover, for \$968m. A shareholder pointed out that the remaining value of the takeover after deducting finance and transaction costs was only about \$100m. Mr Nossal also commented on the slow progress being made to rectify production problems at the jointly owned Kwinana lithium hydroxide where even the improved rate in the last quarter of 600 tonnes output is only 12% of nameplate levels. The acting chief executive, Matt Dusci, noted the good results in the lithium and nickel businesses in 2023 and record revenue and profits achieved, all over-shadowed by the \$968m impairment of Cosmos.

Not unexpectedly, there were a significant number of questions from shareholders and your representative regarding the due diligence process for the Western Areas takeover, probing to find out the cause of the losses incurred. The cause was not disclosed and we are to await a report from an independent review into the takeover and assets acquired which is progressing with a report to be provided to the company in the December quarter. We asked if shareholders should expect the board to remain intact in the aftermath of the blunder. We voted against the re-election of Ms Debra Bakker, one of several board members including the chair with extensive mergers and acquisition experience in the careers but her re-election was confirmed with a majority of only 77%. We also voted against the remuneration report because of extra cash bonuses paid to executives outside the remuneration plan, the small reflection of the devastating impairment in short-term incentive amounts and the 3-year short appraisal period for long-term incentives. The remuneration report passed with a 85% majority. We also voted against the pre-approval of termination payments in excess of Corporations Law limits, which also passed with a 66% majority.

In surprise news breaking on the eve of the meeting, a report in the Financial Review noted that the Mr Ivan Vella, IGO's appointed chief executive and managing director due to start in a few weeks, had been sacked by Rio Tinto for a breach of confidentiality. We asked if the resolution relating to a grant to Mr Vella of 400,000 service rights without performance conditions should be withdrawn rather than being put to the meeting. In the event, it was put to the meeting and we changed our intended vote for that resolution, to against, but it passed with a 97% majority.

Resolutions for the election of Samantha Hogg as a director, for the issue of performance rights to Mr Vella and the technical change of auditor, all of which we supported, passed with 99.9%, 98.7% and 89% majorities.

In other questions, it was pointed out that the prices achieved for spodumene in 2023 were unlikely to be repeated. Mr Nossal advised that it was likely that the Nova mine would go into care and maintenance when the current reserves were extracted irrespective of the results of ongoing exploration and attempts to move resources into reserves. We were also told that, by end of the December quarter, the Kwinana lithium hydroxide production rate was expected to achieve approximately 50% of nameplate when the current shut-down ended.

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