

Coles 2024 AGM Report

ASX code	COL
Meeting date	12 November 2024
Type of meeting	Hybrid
Monitor	Stewart Burn assisted by Michael Muntisov
Pre AGM-meeting	With chair James Graham and director Richard Freudenstein

Meeting Statistics

Number of holdings represented by ASA	758
Number of shares represented by ASA	2,188,270
Value of shares represented by ASA	\$38.6m
Total number attending meeting	612 (207 shareholders/405 guests)
Market capitalisation	\$24 billion
ASA open proxies voted	ASA voted in favour of all the resolutions

The Coles AGM was a 4-hour marathon with many, many questions asked by activists regarding deforestation and the threat of salmon farming on Maugean skate etc.

The Chairman and CEO addresses reviewed a year highlighted by several issues where cost of living had been politicised, including, a senate enquiry, an ACCC enquiry and issues associated with shrinkflation. In this respect he highlighted that total sales revenue for the five years to June 2024 had increased by only 14% and their profit margin, remained essentially constant at 2.6% throughout. The chair highlighted the significant events that have occurred over the past year, particularly their investment in new technology.

CEO Leah Weckert detailed operational areas of Coles and where it continued to excel, mentioning Coles exclusive brands, Flybuys growth, growth in online shopping, community support and team safety. She highlighted that Group sales revenue growth from continuing operations was 5.7% with growth in Q1 being 3.5%, unfortunately liquor sales remain flat.

In response to an ASA question on the performance of Coles Liquor, the chair stated that this was being addressed by a rebranding exercise with all liquor stores to have the same branding. With regards to our question on how Coles was addressing the current range of controversial issues and what steps were being taken to mitigate any adverse findings, the chair didn't really answer our question, just stating that they were working with the legislators to address the issues.

There were many, many questions which the chair handled fairly and took time to answer fully, both from the floor and on-line covering topics such as deforestation, the Maugean skate, 2050 targets, supply line issues, soft plastics recycling, modern day slavery, theft, payment of staff, walkback of DEI policies, security etc, etc.

All resolutions passed comfortably, except for the shareholder resolution requesting an amendment to the constitution, which was defeated. The remuneration report gathered 97% support.

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