

# MEDIA RELEASE

10 May 2023

## Australian Shareholders' Association – Media Alert

### Second ASA Awards acknowledge ASX governance winners & leading Australian retail investor volunteers

#### Highlights

- The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA) has announced the recipients of its second [ASA Awards](#) at its 2023 Investor Conference in Sydney;
- Most Effective Communications is awarded to Woolworths Group Limited (ASX:WOW);
- Enhanced Company Governance is awarded to Northern Star Resources (ASX:NST);
- Monitor of the Year Award is awarded to Peter Gregory, NSW, and
- Convenor of the Year Award is awarded to Keith Ready, NSW.

**May 2023** - The voice of Australian retail shareholders, The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA), is delighted to announce the recipients of its second ASA Awards at its 2023 Investor Conference in Sydney today, highlighting ASX companies for peak governance standards and its own volunteer members, Australian investors contributing to the not-for-profit organisation.

For more than 60 years ASA has been driven by the mission to be the voice of retail shareholders through educating investors and standing up for shareholder rights. Today's announcement represents the second time ASA has awarded ASX-listed companies and its volunteers with the below awards.

#### 2023 ASA Award Winners

##### **Most Effective Communications Award | Woolworths Group Limited (ASX:WOW)**

This company award is determined by a company's initiatives to be transparent with its shareholders.

Australian Shareholder's Association, Chair Steven Mabb said:

"Woolworths is a worthy recipient of this communications award given the clarity of its remuneration report. The company effectively outlined remuneration elements, performance metrics, what each executive receives, and the likely outcomes for the business. Well done to those involved with this reporting".

Kate Eastoe, Group Company Secretary & Group Counsel at Woolworths Group, stated:

"We are thrilled to be recognised by the Australian Shareholders' Association for our efforts to provide transparency, clarity, and connection for our shareholders. We look to continuously improve our reporting for all stakeholders, and genuinely appreciate the feedback provided by shareholders as we prepare our F24 reporting materials".

### **Enhanced Company Governance Award | Northern Star Resources (ASX:NST)**

This company award is attributed to a company that has lifted the quality of its corporate governance.

Australian Shareholder's Association, Chair Steven Mabb said:

"Northern Star Resources deserves praise for complying with ASX Corporate Governance recommendations and making changes that have led to a wider variety of skills and experience, including the appointment of independent non-executive directors and the implementation of a low risk profitable growth strategy".

Northern Star Resources Ltd's Chief Legal Officer & Company Secretary, Hilary Macdonald said:

"Northern Star Resources is delighted to receive the ASA Enhanced Company Governance award from the Australian Shareholders Association.

"Like the ASA, best practice governance standards are at the heart of our Purpose, which is to generate superior returns for our shareholders, while providing positive benefits for our stakeholders, through operational effectiveness, exploration and active portfolio management.

"It is pleasing that our focus on the Board skills and evaluation process, the depth of our Sustainability Reporting and the rigour applied to our ESG disclosures has been recognised in this way."

### **Monitor of the Year Award – Peter Gregory, New South Wales**

Peter was recognised for being a highly dedicated and knowledgeable monitor who has been an outstanding volunteer for ASA over many years.

### **Convenor of the Year Award – Keith Ready, New South Wales**

Keith Ready was recognised for establishing two different discussion groups while also successfully running the Sydney Investor Forum with great attendance numbers and interesting guest speakers.

## **ASA Awards Process**

Last year's award for "Best Company Governance" was changed to "Most Effective Shareholder Communications" to ensure the analysis of a company's governance standards was clearer for voters.

For the first time, ASA members were invited to participate by nominating a potential candidate for the "Convenor of the Year award" shortlist.

Our company monitors were asked to shortlist potential candidates for the "Monitor of the Year" category and both company awards.

The awards judging panel consisted of State company monitors responsible for oversight of ASA's monitoring, State Chairs who oversee member meetings, ASA management, and ASA's Board. The panel reviewed the four shortlists and voted to decide the final recipient in each category.

## **ASA Awards Rationale**

As a not-for-profit organisation ASA stands up for retail shareholder rights and enriches its members' financial knowledge. Best practice governance standards are at the heart of our mission to advocate for retail shareholders and we wanted to celebrate the ASX-listed companies who are leading governance standards across Australian boardrooms.

The work we do is only possible with the significant contribution from ASA's monitors and convenors. As our volunteer community is the organisation's lifeblood and contribute to the ASA's success it was vital for us to award our Monitor and Convenor of the Year to acknowledge their work and impact on behalf of Australian retail investors.

## **Nominees for the Enhanced Company Governance Award**

AGL Energy (ASX: AGL), Elders Limited (ASX: ELD), **Northern Star Resources (NST)**.

## **Nominees for the Most Effective Communications Award**

Wesfarmers Limited (ASX: WES), **Woolworths Group Limited (ASX: WOW)**, Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA).

## **Nominees for the Monitor of the Year Award**

Mike Muntisov (NSW), **Peter Gregory (NSW)**, Kevin Bowman (WA), Mike Robey (NSW).

## **Nominees for the Convenor of the Year Award**

**Keith Ready (NSW)**, Ian Thomson (VIC), Bernie Masters (WA).

## **Australian Shareholder's Association, Chief Executive Officer Rachel Waterhouse said:**

"Congratulations to all the recipients for their outstanding work. Thank you as well to the ASA community, including our members who participated in the awards program for the first time".

"Peter Gregory (Monitor of the Year) and Keith Ready (Convenor of the Year) are worthy recipients due to their support of our members, the quality of the information they bring to all their work, and their strong organisational skills".

"Woolworth Group Limited (Most Effective Communications) and Northern Star Resources Limited (Enhanced Company Governance) deserve recognition for their transparency towards shareholders and how they have enriched their corporate governance in meaningful ways".

### **For more information or an interview, please contact:**

#### **Australian Shareholders' Association**

Rachel Waterhouse, CEO

[ceo@asa.asn.au](mailto:ceo@asa.asn.au)

**The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA)** educates investors and gives retail shareholders a voice. It is Australia's largest, independent, not-for-profit individual investor association. ASA is passionate about keeping the market fair for the everyday, independent investor, and has been doing just that since 1960. ASA provides members with a community of experienced investors and shareholders. Members can further their investment knowledge through the annual conference, webinars, podcasts, magazines, monthly meetings, and discussion groups (including in regional areas), seminars, workshops and more.

ASA's mission is to:

- Protect shareholders' rights
- Make individual shareholders' vote count
- Help individual investors on their investment journey
- Connect people to a community of investors

**To learn more, please visit:** [www.australianshareholders.com.au](http://www.australianshareholders.com.au)