

## CSL 2025 AGM report - two strikes and you're not out

<b>ASX code</b>	CSL
<b>Meeting date</b>	Tuesday, 28 October 2025
<b>Type of meeting</b>	Hybrid
<b>Monitor</b>	Mike Robey, assisted by Frank Hong
<b>Pre AGM-meeting</b>	With Directors Megan Clark and incoming Director Cameron Price, as well as the CoSec Fiona Mead.

### Meeting Statistics

<b>Number of holdings represented by ASA</b>	744
<b>Number of shares represented by ASA</b>	1,084,205 (16th-largest shareholder)
<b>Value of shares represented by ASA</b>	\$194m (after share price drop)
<b>Total number attending meeting</b>	TBC, but a full house
<b>Market capitalisation</b>	\$103 billion
<b>ASA open proxies voted</b>	ASA voted in favour of all the resolutions except the spill motion.

*Monitor Shareholding: The individual (or their associates involved in the preparation of this voting intention have no shareholding in this company.*

The Chair and CEO speeches were published on the ASX website prior to the meeting and can be found [here](#).

The Chair alerted the meeting early on that proxies already returned indicated a second remuneration strike was to occur.

He opened with a slide of the financial performance in the past FY, which showed that all key measures including dividends were substantially up year-on-year.

In the course of the Chair's speech, he revealed that the vaccine demand was even softer than they had planned when they chose to spin off Seqirus, so they had decided to put this demerger on hold. His expectation was that US demand for flu vaccines would stabilize, but this had not eventuated.

The CEO provided reduced forecasts for revenue growth from 4-5% down to 2-3%, and NPATA growth from 7-10% down to 4-5%, based on the continued fall in vaccine demand, as well as Chinese government cost containment measures affecting the albumin business there.

It appears that these two downward revisions sent the share price down 15% in early trading.

The meeting was conducted by holding all questions until after all matters of business had been conducted, commencing with online questions, and then to the floor. The RACV auditorium was a full house, possibly indicating more than planned attendees.

ASA's first question covered the CEO's statement to the press that there was something fundamentally wrong with the Victorian R&D effectiveness. We asked what they had found out and what they will be doing about it. The answer was that this statement to the press was a frustrated response to the work-from-home culture of some in this department, made in haste. The CEO clarified that there was a review of the 20+ R&D centres globally with the aim to consolidate to three, thereby significantly improving R&D effectiveness and efficiency.

Our second question went to the strategic thinking which led to the half-price (loss of US\$167m) of a Chinese plasma collection business 7 years after buying into it, which the CEO answered was due to poor economics of this market in China. No mention was made of the failure of due diligence to pick up this risk.

There was a question about CSL use of gas in their operations by an energy activist, (CEO responded that in the range of risks they face, this was minor), questions from former long-suffering patients affected by Hep C and HIV contaminated plasma in the days prior to CSL public float, who saw little action about redressing by the Government ( we will look into it again).

Other questions from the floor or online dealt with the poor share performance (we can't control this), why the return on capital had declined from historically high levels of 40% to the high teens now (Vifor acquisition required a large capital outlay, so dropped the overall group ROIC, but it will recover over time).

Both incoming Directors, Dr Daniels and Mr Price spoke well to their election.

The results of the meeting are given [here](#). In summary, the remuneration report suffered 42% vote against, giving CSL a second strike, and requiring a spill motion to be put to the meeting. In response to an ASA question about the reasons given by the major investors for their against vote for the remuneration, the Remuneration sub-committee chair, Ms Clark, stated that it was a combination of matters; one was about the measures used for the STI award, and another was the CEO sale of substantial share parcels.

This latter was stated to be according to the ASX listing rules, so was acceptable. She also responded that the STI measures and hurdles were in CSL's opinion the correct ones for the business and the STI award was made accordingly. The board spill motion received a 98% against vote. The Director election resolutions, as well as the issue of performance rights for the CEO LTI passed with high 90's for.

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