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Company	Alumina Ltd
Code	AWC
Meeting	AGM
Date	20 May 2020
Venue	Online
Monitor	Michael Muntisov assisted by Christine Haydon

Number attendees online	14 shareholders/proxyholders plus 40 guests (last year's physical meeting: 42 shareholders/proxyholders plus 66 visitors)
Number of holdings represented by ASA	251
Value of proxies	$4.2m
Number of shares represented by ASA	2.9m (last year 2.8m)
Market capitalisation	$4,200m
Were proxies voted?	Yes, on a poll
Pre AGM Meeting?	Yes, with chairman, CEO and company secretary

Commodity prices under pressure

Alumina is engaged in investing in bauxite mining, alumina refining and selected aluminium smelting operations, through its 40% ownership of Alcoa World Alumina and Chemicals (AWAC).

2019 was a solid year for profits and dividends following the record year in 2018. The major factor in performance was the realised price for alumina. US$336/t in 2019 vs US$447/t in 2018. So net cash receipts were US$420m, down 38% on 2018.

The Chairman reflected on how Alumina Ltd sought to act in its stewardship role in the company's interest over AWAC assets. These included maintaining a balance sheet that could ride out business cycles. He noted the low level of debt in Alumina. He highlighted the low-cost long-life assets owned by AWAC and noted that it was sixty years since the Western Australian resources were developed.

He also emphasised the company's climate change and sustainability initiatives and noted the significant reductions in emissions achieved even though its refineries were in the lower half of emissions intensity in the world.

The CEO gave an update on current market conditions. The current spot price for alumina is around US$245/t after falling to US$225/t during the peak of the market panic. Even at these levels AWAC is still profitable (AWAC's cost of production in Q1 2020 was US$199) while 55% of world alumina producers were losing money. He noted that the current cost of alumina production in China exceeded the current spot price, so it was cheaper for the Chinese to import alumina.

The demand for aluminium had marginally fallen in 2019 and the COVID-19 disruption had further reduced demand. However, he noted that after the GFC, demand for alumina remained strong and aluminium inventory was built up. He was confident that demand would recover once the auto and construction industries returned to near normal. It was a question of when, not if.

He emphasised the positive long-term future for aluminium given its recycling qualities, light weight nature and its application in a growing number of areas such as electric vehicles and packaging as a substitute for glass and plastic

There were many more questions that at previous in-person AGMs. Most related to climate change/emissions and remuneration. All resolutions passed with more than 98% support.

Some points about the virtual meeting. It was efficiently run with both shareholders and guests able to attend. Questions could be asked in real time and follow ups permitted. A nice touch was for the chairman to ask all directors to say hello and indicate where they were. Questions were managed well by having the investor relations manager ask the question, and answers coming from the Chair or CEO. It appeared that all questions received were asked, and the company did not attempt to lump similar questions into a generic question.