

Macquarie Group 2023 AGM report

Company	Macquarie Group Limited
ASX code	MQG
Meeting type	AGM
Date of AGM	Thursday, 27 July 2023
Venue	Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, Wentworth Ballroom, Level 3, 61-101 Phillip Street, Sydney and online
Monitor	Sue Howes, Gareth Eastwood, and David Brennan

Number of attendees	327
Number of holdings represented by ASA	458
Value of proxies	\$87.5m
Number of shares represented by ASA	478,035
Market capitalisation	\$68.0 billion
Were proxies voted?	ASA voted in favour of all resolutions
Pre AGM-meeting	Yes, with Glenn Stevens (Chairman), Jillian Broadbent (Chair of Remuneration), Lynnette Sarno, Global Head of HR, and Mayling Fitzsimmons, Investor relations

Meeting Statistics

Macquarie Group Limited (MQG) provided an update on its first quarter business results in advance of the AGM. The weaker result (compared to Q1 FY23), meant the meeting opened with Macquarie experiencing a significant fall in its share price. In contrast, a generally positive outlook was provided on the recent performance of the mortgage lending business while indicating MQG has pulled back from this market due to lack of profitable business being written.

The Macquarie AGM format was unusual, with a break for refreshments and the commencement of voting prior to presentations from the directors up for election or re-election and general questions. While the ASA would prefer to have questions follow the set agenda, MQG leaving their polls open until all questions have been exhausted allowed shareholders the opportunity to adjust their votes accordingly. Both directors subject to a vote received overwhelming support. Ms Lloyd-Hurwitz received 99.73% in favour of her election. Ms Nicola Wakefield Evans AM was also successfully re-elected as a company Director with 95.90% approval.

The remuneration report received a significant negative proportion of votes against at 19%. While considerably higher than the 4% against in FY22, the resolution still avoided recording a strike by a margin.

The recent drop in the company's share price may have drawn voter attention to executive remuneration aligning to earnings rather than total shareholder return.

AGM question time included a gem from an online participant, asking if there is any connection between Macquarie's firm stance on returning to office for employees and Macquarie Asset Management investments in office infrastructure.

The CEO demonstrated a good grasp of the UK business in a detailed response to a question related to the previously held Thames water business and UK assets generally. In response to another question, the Global COO, Nicole Sorbara, explained that Macquarie had begun experimenting with generative AI, providing an example of a GitHub (Microsoft owned software code management tool) pilot for increasing the productivity of software programmers.

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