

Argo Investments Limited 2024 AGM Report

ASX code	ARG
Meeting date	Monday, 21 October 2024
Type of meeting	Physical with simultaneous livestream (view only)
Monitor	Greg OConnell assisted by Bob Ritchie
Pre AGM-meeting	Yes, in Argo offices with Chief Operating Officer Timothy Binks and, by video, with Chair Russell Higgins and Chair of Remuneration Peter Warne. ASA represented by Greg OConnell and Bob Ritchie.

Meeting Statistics

Number of holdings represented by ASA	259
Number of shares represented by ASA	3,995,665
Value of shares represented by ASA	\$35,401,592
Total number attending meeting	Approx 250
Market capitalisation	\$6.8 billion
ASA open proxies voted	On a poll. ASA voted FOR the Remuneration Report and voted in favour of all the other resolutions.

Argo AGM straight forward, Chair announces resignation

Individual Directors introduced themselves at the start of the meeting – a nice touch to hear each of them speak. Director Peter Warne was unable to participate and apologised – the after-effects of a foot operation prohibited travel.

The Chairman’s address included a comprehensive description of benefits provided to Argo Investors:

- Dividend smoothing illustrated by chart
- 100% franking compared to earnings at lesser franking levels and the Index at 68% to 85% since 2019.
- LIC capital gains
- Low management expense ratio
- Over the very long term an average Discount of Price to net tangible assets of 0.3%

The Chairman and Managing Director illustrated Dividend returns over 10 years, Premium/Discounts over 30 years, Shareholder returns over 20 years – an instructive “big picture” for long term investors.

The full AGM recording is available on the Argo website.

Argo maintained its record high and fully franked dividend at 34.5 cents per share for the year.

Over the 12 months to 30 September, Argo's investment performance, as measured by the net tangible asset (NTA) return after all costs and adjusted for company tax paid, was 18.9% compared to the Index which gained 21.8% over the same period. The Index is at a Record high. Argo had \$7.4 billion Assets under Management at the time of the meeting.

ASA voted FOR Argo's Remuneration report, after voting AGAINST it for the prior 4 years. The full thinking supporting this YES vote is outlined in the ASA's Voting Intentions (VI) document. This "meeting of the minds" between Argo and ASA on the Remuneration Incentives followed several meetings and exchanges of information between ASA monitoring staff and Argo Executives through the year. This intense approach was a direct response by both parties to our observation last year that "once per year" information exchange between ASA and Argo, concerning Argo's changed approach to investment incentives, was a slow, drawn out and inefficient way of getting to a point of mutual understanding.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chair Russell Higgins announced his retirement, effective year end, from the Argo Board with Peter Warne to take over as Chair. A replacement Director will be sought for the vacant position.

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