

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Australian Shareholders' Association – Media Alert

### Inaugural ASA awards acknowledge ASX governance winners & leading Australian retail investor volunteers

#### Highlights

- The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA) has announced the recipients of its inaugural ASA Awards at its 2022 Investor Conference in Melbourne;
- Best Company Governance is awarded to BHP Limited (ASX:BHP);
- Enhanced Company Governance is awarded to OZ Minerals Limited (ASX:OZL);
- Monitor of the Year Award is awarded to John Campbell, Western Australia; and
- Convenor of the Year Award is awarded to Lorraine Graham, Western Australia.

**May 2022** - The voice of Australian retail shareholders, The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA), is delighted to announce the recipients of its inaugural ASA Awards at its 2022 Investor Conference in Melbourne 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 first time ASA has awarded ASX-listed companies and its volunteers with the below awards.

#### Inaugural ASA Award Winners

##### **Best Company Governance | BHP Limited (ASX:BHP)**

Acknowledges a company that operates in a sustainable manner and treats its shareholders with respect.

##### Australian Shareholder's Association, Chair Steven Mabb said:

“BHP engaged well with shareholders including Q&A sessions prior to the AGM. They also held special sessions on cultural heritage, climate change, decarbonising steel, and tailings dams, all of which are of pressing interest to engaged shareholders. BHP regularly conducts performance evaluations of its Board and Sub-Committees by an external service provider and has a detailed skills matrix. The annual report contained detailed data on the tenure, composition, and diversity of the Board. Although, they fell below 30% female diversity, they have an objective to re-achieve this by 2023.”

BHP Chair Ken MacKenzie said:

“BHP has made a number of significant strategic decisions over the past year on our corporate structure, portfolio and decarbonisation goals, as we position our company in an ever-changing world.

We are grateful to our many shareholders for their engagement and support on a range of matters, including through the ASA. The ASA plays an important role in providing a forum for members and shareholders to discuss issues of importance directly with companies and others, and we have been working hard to strengthen our own reporting and engagement activities. We are delighted to receive the ASA’s inaugural Best Company Governance award.”

**Enhanced Company Governance | OZ Minerals Limited (ASX:OZL)**

Celebrates the efforts of a company in lifting the quality of its corporate governance.

Australian Shareholder's Association, Chair Steven Mabb said:

“In 2017, OZ Minerals had a new chair and a new chair of remuneration. The board set about a complete overhaul of the corporate governance statement. In the years since, the governance of the company had been exemplary.”

“The remuneration structure has been completely modified. This removal of the importance of share price on the remuneration for executives (heavily influenced by the price of copper) has been partly removed and replaced by hurdles that the executive team could control, such as the cost of extracting the minerals from the ground. In addition, the hurdles are clearly defined and how they are measured is explained.”

“Oz Minerals have really ‘cracked’ how to make an AGM interesting and informative. At the most recent AGM the Chair spoke about the OzWay of doing things, the importance of culture within the organisation, and how it strives to create value for its employees, shareholders, governments, communities and suppliers.”

Rebecca McGrath, Chairman of OZ Minerals and Andrew Cole, Managing Director & CEO of OZ Minerals said:

“We thank the Australian Shareholders’ Association for this recognition of our work.”

“The OZ Minerals Board values interaction with shareholders, as do our Executives and our workforce, as it helps us better understand what’s important to them. Holding our hybrid Annual General Meeting in our Adelaide office means it is more accessible to shareholders and that there is more opportunity for interaction, better allowing our shareholders to get insight into our people and the way we work.”

“Ongoing shareholder support is important to our success, as is investing to create value for our other stakeholders, because it’s only in doing so that we can build a sustainable and resilient business now and for the future.”

### **Monitor of the Year Award – John Campbell, Western Australia**

John was recognised for his outstanding contributions to ASA's voting intentions for monitored companies, AGM engagement, and the reporting of outcomes to ASA members.

### **Convenor of the Year Award – Lorraine Graham, Western Australia**

Lorraine was recognised for her excellent management of a local member meeting group in Perth and high member engagement and attendance. Lorraine has managed the Perth city member meetings for 11 years.

### **ASA Awards Process**

The Australian Shareholders' Association award nominations were determined through a survey and then received by ASA members, which included a nomination for each State.

The 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 judging panel reviewed the final list of State nominations and voted to decide the recipient in each of the four categories.

### **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 Best Company Governance Award**

**BHP Limited (ASX: BHP)**, Commonwealth Bank of Australia (ASX: CBA), Codan (ASX: CDA), Flight Centre (ASX: FLT), Iluka Resources Limited (ILU).

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

BHP Limited (ASX: BHP), Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Corporation ASX: FPH), **Oz Minerals (ASX: OZL)**, Tabcorp (ASX: TAH).

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

Ian Anderson (NSW), **John Campbell (WA)**, Jason Cole (VIC), Shirley Watson (QLD), Ken Wakeman (SA).

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

Don Fairweather (SA), Don Matthews (QLD), Linda Martin (VIC), Margaret Thorn (NSW), **Lorraine Graham (WA)**.

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

"I congratulate the award winners for their success and thank them for their strong commitment to service and good governance."

"John Campbell (Monitor of the Year) and Lorraine Graham (Convenor of the Year) have been outstanding in their support of our members and the broader retail investment sector, and show the quality of our participation in Western Australia."

"BHP Limited (Best Company Governance) and Oz Minerals Limited (Enhanced Company Governance) have demonstrated dedication to good governance, accountability, and shareholder value."

"I want to acknowledge all the nominees for their excellent and inspiring work, and I thank the ASA community for voting."

**For more information or an interview, please contact:****Australian Shareholders' Association**

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**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)