

Inquiry: The Corporations Amendment (Meetings and Documents) Bill 2021 [Provisions]

I wish to make a submission to the inquiry. I am making a plea for the Amendment to be not adopted. I do this because I believe it is a fundamental right of shareholders to meet those who manage the company in which they hold the shares and to ask questions of the Board at AGMs about the conduct of the company. After all the shares are investments of my money providing a component of the ownership of the company and hence its business is my business. I have attended many AGMs and asked questions of the Board, eg CBA, Suncorp, Senex, AACO, ANZ, Aurizon, Stanmore Coal, Central Petroleum, ERM Power.

At these AGMs I have also taken the opportunity to follow up after the meeting and meet the Board Members and those running the companies such as the CEOs as well as the auditors. This has given me an insight into the personalities running the company as well as establish a personal relationship and invitations to follow up with contact directly to the company management. These are invaluable options for me as a shareholder with interest in how my knowledge can be used in support of my company's and the community's interest.

Corporations are not people although they have been allowed to abrogate some of the rights of people *per se*, but these days there is an understanding that they exist as a component of the way society operates and produces goods and services, and hence the need for companies to appropriately operate appropriately around the issue of sustainability of resources, and concern for the environment, the so called triple bottom line issues. They should also be taking appropriate risk management procedures especially with respect to global heating and the use of natural resources especially those that are not renewable.

It is for these reasons that I strongly advocate against the AGMs only being online and in future continue to be hybrid meetings where on line and in person attendance operates.

Thank you

Professor (QUT and UQ) Peter Dart

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