

30 October 2020

Manager
Market Conduct Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600

CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT (VIRTUAL MEETINGS AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS) BILL 2020

I write on behalf of Reliance Worldwide Corporation Limited ("RWC") in support of the proposed changes to electronic communications and virtual hosting of shareholder meetings.

About RWC

RWC is a leader in the design, manufacture and supply of premium branded, high quality water flow and control products and solutions for the plumbing and heating industry. RWC is an ASX listed company with a current market capitalisation of approximately A\$3.3 billion. Our operations span North America, Europe, Australia and parts of Asia. A high proportion of our operations and senior management teams, including the Group CEO and CFO, are based overseas.

The proposals reflect current reality

The changes that are proposed reflect trends which have been underway for some time for listed companies and which we have certainly experienced at RWC.

Currently, a very high percentage of RWC's shareholders elect to receive their communications electronically, with less than 2% of holders electing to receive a hard copy of the Annual Report..

We have a very low percentage of shareholders who physically attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM). In 2019, only 20 shareholders attended our AGM out of a total number of shareholders at that time of 18,000. In 2020, we had 62 people attend our virtual AGM of which 13 were shareholders.

The proposals will aid shareholder participation

In common with many other Australian listed companies, our shareholder base is geographically diverse. Consequently, holding our AGM physically necessarily limits the ability of shareholders outside of that location to attend and participate. Holding our AGM virtually, using a proven and reliable electronic platform, should facilitate greater levels of shareholder participation than has previously been the case.



Additionally, shareholders who do attend a physical AGM can find it an intimidating experience to ask questions from the floor. Electronic AGM platforms allow questions to be easily asked through typing them into the platform and this ease of use should encourage greater levels of shareholder participation than might otherwise be the case. The volume of questions at our virtual AGM this year was consistent with what we have experienced in prior years at physical meetings, but we would expect this trend to grow as shareholders become increasingly familiar with and comfortable using electronic meeting platforms.

The proposals are consistent with best practice sustainability principles

The printing and distribution of AGM notices and associated materials is an unsustainable practice from an environmental perspective which can be easily avoided through the distribution of materials via electronic means.

For RWC, holding a physical AGM requires directors and senior executives to fly to Melbourne from other parts of Australia and from the USA. Holding virtual AGMs will avoid the need for this additional air travel and is therefore also consistent with best practice sustainability principles.

In addition to the sustainability benefits, holding AGMs virtually saves an estimated \$40,000 per annum for RWC. This is particularly due to avoided long haul airfares and venue hire, with these savings partly offset by increased platform technology costs.

The proposals do not weaken board accountability

Boards will remain accountable to shareholders regardless of how AGMs are conducted, whether physically or virtually. Good governance practice requires boards to meet on a regular basis with key stakeholders and to remain alert to and cognisant of prevailing shareholder views and broader stakeholder trends in managing the affairs of the business. This obligation is in no ways diminished by allowing virtual AGMs. Additionally, shareholders are able to contact the Company when convenient, via a platform on our website, to discuss matters of importance or concern to them, including arranging calls or meetings with directors.

The AGM is but one forum whereby the company through its board and executive officers can interact with shareholders, explain the company's performance, its strategies and its stakeholder management objectives. This can be achieved just as effectively through a virtual meeting. In no way does a move to holding AGMs virtually shelter directors from their accountability to the company's shareholders to account for the performance of the company and any other issues which were relevant and important to stakeholders more broadly.

Your faithfully,



Stuart Crosby

Chairman