

<b>Company</b>	Brambles Limited
<b>Code</b>	BXB
<b>Meeting</b>	AGM
<b>Date</b>	19 October 2021
<b>Venue</b>	Virtual online meeting
<b>Monitor</b>	Roger Ashley assisted by Bala Varadarajan

<b>Number attendees at meeting</b>	85 attendees: Proxyholders: 1 (2020: 1) Shareholders: 28 (2020: 29) Visitors: 56 (2020: 69)
<b>Number of holdings represented by ASA</b>	127
<b>Value of proxies</b>	\$6.0m
<b>Number of shares represented by ASA</b>	0.58m
<b>Market capitalisation</b>	\$14.7 bn.
<b>Were proxies voted?</b>	Yes, on a poll
<b>Pre AGM Meeting?</b>	Yes with Chair John Mullen, Robert Gerrard VP Legal & Secretariat and Raluca Chiriacescu, Investor Relations

### Expanded investment Ahead

The Chairman and CEO's [presentations](#) were upbeat in their future profit projections for the company. In line with the recent "Investor Day" presentations which flagged "high single digit" profit growth going forward: the expectation for 2021-2 is for profit growth of 6-7%. The immediate effect on the share price was positive unlike the reaction to the investor day presentation when investors appeared to balk at the increased investment involved in enhanced digital systems designed to improve efficiency, cut costs and deliver better asset tracking and customer solutions. The Chairman referred to the current lack of digital visibility over pooled assets and the cost of replacing the resultant losses which the increased investment is intended to target.

Investment rises to \$US440m in 2024-5 although it should be noted that this expenditure is dependent upon a successful proof of concept following spending of \$US180m in 2022-3 and trials in the UK and Canada. The extent to which the forward projections would change in the event the investment program was to be scaled back has not been quantified.

We note that the company claims to have achieved carbon neutral in its own operations and has begun addressing the greater challenge within the whole supply chain.

All resolutions were passed by a minimum of 95% with the ASA voting against the remuneration report where one issue raised by the ASA was the latitude the Board has in amending incentive targets. In response to this question, the Chairman assured the ASA that such changes would be minimal and a disclosure given in the annual report. The share buy-back was authorised for a further twelve months which may complete this initiative. A question from the floor queried why an on-market buy-back was chosen with the answer being that the quantum of franking credits argued against an off-market buy-back similar to that just completed by the CBA.

Other questions were answered as follows:

- The company is not actively looking for potential acquisitions
- Possibly some component of pallet shortages may be attributed to customers' stockpiling
- The resolution to change the company's constitution which was withdrawn from voting was influenced by institutional investor's discomfort. The option of a virtual AGM in future (as opposed to a hybrid meeting) was not favoured.
- Given the overseas shareholdings and Board representation the company will consider the overseas practice of voting for all directors annually. Treasury Wine Estates was a company mentioned as having adopted annual voting.