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Newcrest Mining 2021 AGM Report

ASX Code	NCM	
Meeting Time/Date	10.30am, Wednesday 10 November 2021	
Type of Meeting	Virtual	
Monitor	Rod McKenzie assisted by Christine Haydon	
Pre AGM Meeting?	Yes, with Chair Peter Hay	

A quiet and quick AGM

What the Company Does

Newcrest is one of the larger gold mining companies in the world, producing 2.1 million ounces gold in FY21.

Developments in the Financial Year

Newcrest has continued their strong growth strategy during FY21. The company is pursuing growth opportunities on 4 separate fronts: Cadia (NSW) and Telfer (WA) both with mine expansion plans, Red Chris (British Columbia) – mine expansion plans and Havieron WA – a new mine to supplement the Telfer operation. Just prior to the AGM, Newcrest advised shareholders of the purchase of Prentium Resources – a listed gold mining company based in British Columbia. This will see total gold production rise to well in excess of 2 million ounces per year.

Summary of Historical ASA Issues with the Company

ASA has raised the issue of the 3-year performance period for the award of Long-Term Incentives (LTIs) to the CEO&MD and to certain executives. However, the chairman considers the 3-year term is appropriate for the company and the 12-month holding lock on shares vested under the LTI awards effectively makes this a 4 year vesting period.

ASA has also raised the issue of the domicile of the various directors. ASA considers with the expansion of the company into North America and the listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange that consideration should be made to appointing a US or Canadian director.

Debate and Voting at the AGM

The chairman introduced the other board members and congratulated the CEO&MD on the excellent results achieved. He also announced this was to be his final meeting as chair. Non-executive director Peter Tomsett is to take on the role of chair if he is re-elected at today's meeting.

FY21 was a strong year for Newcrest and there was a large increase in dividend paid to shareholders. The company has now had over 6 years fatality free across their operations. The company is working closely with the various communities to fund a number of healthcare programs, Covid-19 vaccinations, training as well as educational and logistics support.

CEO&MD Sandeep Biswas reinforced comments about the strong safety culture at Newcrest, their goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and their commitments to increasing the number of women in the workforce.

The directors standing for election / re-election addressed the meeting and outlined their key credentials.

Questions from shareholders covered unclaimed dividends – shareholders advised to contact the share registry to update their banking details; donations to United Nations – Newcrest donates to UNICEF to support Covid-19 vaccinations in their operational areas; abolishment of the STI & LTI bonus payments – the chairman stated that these were an essential part of the capitalist system and is in line with other operations.

ASA asked a question on ranking of the various expansion opportunities – these don't need to be ranked at present, but all options need to be progressed.

We also asked questions regarding the Cadia tailings dam and the need for continual monitoring – yes, this is continually monitored; vaccination of Lihir workforce – yes, currently 42% vaccinated compared to just 2% of the rest of PNG; and a question relating to announcements made to the Toronto Stock Exchange – all announcements are made to the TSX, ASX and are available on the NCM website.

All resolutions passed with strong support. Non-executive director Peter Tomsett was re-elected and will take on the role of chairman at the conclusion of the AGM.

Outlook Statements from the Company

The purchase of the Pretium Resources assets in British Columbia, which includes the Brucejack gold mine, will see an additional 300,000 ounces gold per year added to Newcrest's production. Once the transaction is complete, Newcrest will have 6 Tier 1 assets with projected gold production well above 2 Moz per annum until at least year 2030.

Meeting Statistics

Number of Holdings Represented by ASA	130
Number of Shares represented by ASA	242,017 (outside Top 20)
Value of Shares represented by ASA	\$6m
Number Attending Meeting	unknown
Market capitalisation	\$20 bn
Were proxies voted?	Yes, on a poll