

AGM Season 2021

The rules have changed

Boards will face unprecedented scrutiny in the 2021 AGM season. The rules have changed. There are new expectations of accountability and transparency, and a firm's social license to operate will be in the spotlight as never before.

THE FTI CONSULTING DIFFERENCE

Hands-on

We sit alongside our clients, not opposite them. Our teams are lean and fast, in both the assessment and implementation of our recommendations, and we provide the resources to lead the project to completion.

Results driven

We never lose sight of the bigger picture. We are accountable and strive to deliver the best outcomes for clients.

Collaborative execution

We work directly and seamlessly with stakeholders to create and execute tailored strategies for optimal results.

Experienced teams

Our professionals are highly experienced with deep knowledge of strategies and tactics used on all sides of the table.

Solutions focused

We are empathetic and take the time to understand the goals and objectives of our clients to provide the most appropriate and tailored output, including practical solutions.

We expect the main themes this year will include:

ESG – WHO CARES WINS

Management of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues will be a key topic of the AGM season. Companies must proactively explain steps to address ESG risks relevant to their business. Pressures are building from all stakeholders, including the investment community.

REMUNERATION

The issue of remuneration and incentivisation is always highly sensitive. Boards will face pressure on this issue, especially if compensation remains high despite poor financial performance.

JOBKEEPER

ASX-listed companies are being pressured to disclose JobKeeper subsidies and some firms received JobKeeper without subsequently experiencing the threshold reduction in revenue. These firms will be under public pressure to return the money. Managing this sensitive issue will be critical.

COVID-19 VACCINES – TO MANDATE OR NOT?

It has been left for businesses to decide whether to mandate vaccines or not and bear the consequences of the decision. This has placed some Boards in a difficult position. Company policy requiring evidence of vaccination status may also raise privacy issues. Expect scrutiny of these issues at AGMs.

DIVERSITY AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORTING

Reporting on workplace diversity and misconduct has become a focal point. The public now expects disclosure around culture and safety issues, especially sexual harassment. The value of accountability goes well beyond market disclosure.

DISRUPTION AND COMPETITIVE THREATS

The pandemic has accelerated digital disruption in all areas of the economy. How Boards position their firms against this new age of digital disruption will dictate the market's confidence in the future.

OUR AGM SERVICES

FTI Consulting has deep expertise in investor communications. FTI Consulting works with clients to fully prepare for investor relations, from strategic advice around key issues and preparation of key documents through to managing AGM logistics.



Strategic Advice

- Advice on approach, strategy and planning
- Identify likely vulnerabilities and issues
- Review existing communication materials and plans



Document Preparation

- Chairperson’s address
- CEO/MD operations update
- Investor presentation



Meeting Preparation

- Q&A and issues management rehearsal
- Media and presentation training
- Director briefings



Retail And Proxy Campaign

- Retail shareholder information campaigns, as required
- Engagement with proxy advisory firms
- Investor relations advice and strategy for institutional shareholders



Virtual Meetings

- Guidance and advice through the virtual meeting process from planning through to completion
- The use of an online meeting platform that provides the necessary Q&A functionality
- The use of an online voting platform that allows shareholders to view and securely vote



Media Management

- Media management in and around the AGM
- Social media management and content strategy
- Interview and background briefings with the Chairperson
- Media follow up and monitoring



RENÉE LAW BERTUCH
Senior Managing Director
+61 409 550 389
renee.law@fticonsulting.com



JANE MUNDAY
Senior Director
+61 488 400 248
jane.munday@fticonsulting.com



STUART CARSON
Managing Director
+61 403 527 755
stuart.carson@fticonsulting.com



PHILIP BAKER
Senior Director
+61 416 188 972
philip.baker@fticonsulting.com

The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and not necessarily the views of FTI Consulting, Inc., its management, its subsidiaries, its affiliates, or its other professionals. FTI Consulting, Inc., including its subsidiaries and affiliates, is a consulting firm and is not a certified public accounting firm or a law firm. FTI Consulting is an independent global business advisory firm dedicated to helping organisations manage change, mitigate risk and resolve disputes: financial, legal, operational, political & regulatory, reputational and transactional. FTI Consulting professionals, located in all major business centres throughout the world, work closely with clients to anticipate, illuminate and overcome complex business challenges and opportunities. Some services may be provided through FTI Capital Advisors (Australia) Pty Ltd AFSL # 504204. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. ©2021 FTI Consulting, Inc. All rights reserved. www.fticonsulting.com