

# **2019 Annual General Meeting**

## **MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS**

Delivered by Mr. Jason Beddow at the 4th Annual General Meeting of Argo Global Listed Infrastructure Limited (Argo Infrastructure or Company) held at the Adelaide Oval on Monday 21 October 2019 at 1.00pm.

#### THE GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITY

Australian infrastructure stocks remain a popular and well-understood investment option among investors. However, there are only around a dozen infrastructure companies to be found listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) and their combined market capitalisation is only approximately \$US70 billion. Furthermore, Australia's listed infrastructure universe is very concentrated, with the three largest companies, Transurban Group, APA Group and Sydney Airport, accounting for approximately 60% of this universe. Australia's infrastructure companies are predominantly focused on toll roads, utilities and airports.

In contrast, the listed infrastructure opportunity set is far greater when investors look overseas. Globally, there are around 350 'pure-play' infrastructure stocks with a total market capitalisation of approximately \$US2.4 trillion. This is roughly double the size of the entire ASX.

The global listed infrastructure universe is also incredibly diverse, spanning both emerging and developed economies and multiple geographies. By investing in global infrastructure opportunities, investors can gain access to a range of asset types not on offer via the local share market. These include communication towers, satellites, marine ports, passenger railways and water utilities.

As interest rates have continued to trend downwards, investors around the world are continuing to seek alternate sources of income and growth. Following equity market volatility over the last 12 months, they have also favoured defensive investment options.

Attracted by the asset class' defensive qualities and stable, long-term returns, institutional and individual investors alike are increasing their portfolio allocations to global listed infrastructure. Data reported by the Global Listed Infrastructure Organisation (GLIO) shows that listed infrastructure funds under management worldwide has grown more than five-fold since 2010. Since 2015, when Argo Infrastructure listed, the figure has roughly doubled.

Similarly, Argo Infrastructure has experienced growing interest from both existing and prospective shareholders. This is reflected in increased enquiries, rising shareholder numbers and our appreciating share price.



#### **COHEN & STEERS**

Our specialist infrastructure manager, Cohen & Steers, continues to generate strong investment returns for our shareholders, with portfolio returns particularly good over the last 12 months. Based in New York and listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Cohen & Steers is one of the world's leading real asset fund managers. We look forward to welcoming Bob Becker to the stage shortly and he will tell you more about Cohen & Steers, as well as the investment portfolio and the outlook for the asset class.

### **THANK YOU**

We are really pleased with the progress the Company has made. Listed infrastructure is proving to be a great diversifying strategy for investors' portfolios. The portfolio's performance over the past 12 months has been excellent and this has been accompanied by increased returns to shareholders.

Before I hand over to Bob, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our small, hard-working team at Argo who are managing Argo Infrastructure. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by our Chairman and Non-executive Directors.