

Bruce Phillips
Chairman
ALS Limited ACN 009 657 489
Annual General Meeting
10:00am on 23 August 2022

## Ladies & gentlemen,

Whilst the world continues to emerge from the profound impacts of the pandemic over the last few years, our primary focus has, and will always be, on the safety and health of our employees and the communities in which we operate. It has been very rewarding for the board to work with the management team to navigate the business through these extraordinary times, and see us emerge from the pandemic in an even stronger position.



FY22 saw our increasingly global enterprise deliver a record year. Revenue was up 18% to A\$2.2 billion, Underlying NPAT and dividends were up 42% to A\$264 million and 32.8 cps respectively, and the share price rose 36%.

These results reflect the continued improvement of Life Sciences sample volumes, and the on-going strength of volumes and prices achieved in the Commodities division; all of which was achieved despite global supply chain disruptions, inflationary headwinds and labour shortages.

FY22 also marked the successful completion of our most recent five-year strategic plan. Despite the challenges and impacts from the pandemic, all targets were met, which highlights the strength and resilience of our business model, and the capability of our management team to execute on strategy. Of particular note was the delivery of revenue growth of 73% and underlying EBIT growth of 113%.



# New 5-year strategic plan



Today we announce a refreshed 5-year strategy that again plans for strong business growth, which is the next step in our evolution to becoming a global leader in the discipline of scientific analysis in pursuit of a better world for all.

We have continued the trend of establishing aspirational, yet achievable financial targets. Our aspirations are to grow annual revenue by 50% to \$3.3 billion, grow underlying EBIT to \$0.6 billion, and maintain a minimum margin of above 19%.

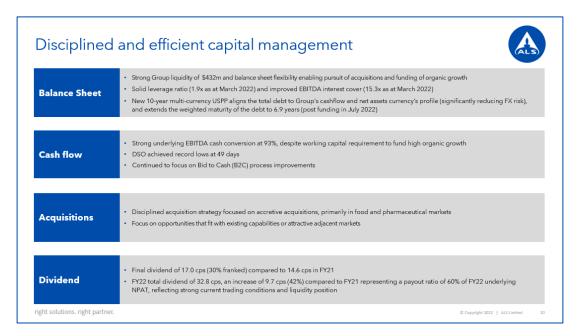
Revenue growth, both organic and through acquisitions, will continue to be driven by our Life Sciences division. The portfolio mix will rebalance, with increasing contribution from Life Sciences, and focus of capital and resources on core businesses. Our geochemistry leadership position remains important, and the opportunities from the emergence of digitalisation and data are to be captured by our businesses.

Our strong cash generation profile will see us maintain a conversion of greater than 90%, supporting our growth and shareholder return objectives.

CEO Raj Naran will provide further insight into the refreshed strategic plan today, and more detail at our investor day in September.



# Capital management and dividend



Our approach to capital management has not changed. We continue to target a strong balance sheet; with priority for investment in organic growth, accretive acquisition opportunities, and dividend payments, with any excess capital to be returned to shareholders, predominantly via share buy-backs.

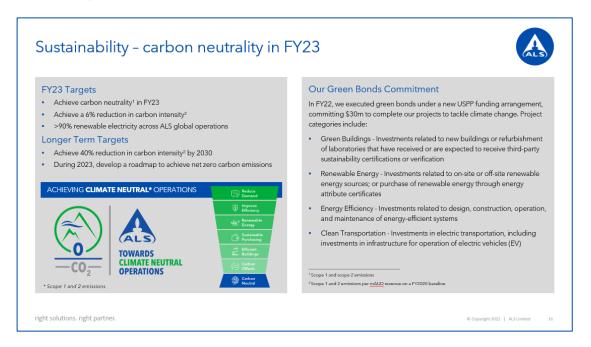
While our net debt increased by \$270 million in FY22, it was used to fund growth investments in new business acquisitions such as our 49% stake in Nuvisan, and Minanalytical; and overall higher capex targeting increased capacity and renewable energy projects. The Group closed FY22 with a leverage ratio of 1.9x, up from 1.6x last year, but well within our target gearing parameters and debt covenant thresholds.

During the year, the business successfully placed new long-term US Private Placement debt totaling \$269 million at relatively low fixed interest rates. Funding took place last month. The proceeds have been applied to refinance maturing debt facilities, resulting in an increase in the weighted average debt maturity for the Group of 6.9 years.

The strength of the balance sheet and performance of the business gave the Board confidence to declare a final dividend of 17.0 cps, partly franked to 30%. Added to the half year dividend of 15.8 cps, this represents a total annual dividend of 32.8 cps, a 42% increase over FY21 and an overall payout ratio of 60% of FY22 underlying NPAT.



### Sustainability and our ESG vision



Sustainability is core to our business. Last month we published the latest edition of our acclaimed Sustainability Report which sets out our ESG vision and FY22 achievements. Our vision is focused on minimising any adverse impact on the environment and society from our operations, as well as upholding the highest standards of governance. We have added a fourth sustainability pillar to ESG which is 'People', aligning with our core values of 'people development' and 'safety is a priority'. People are the core of our business and these values have never been more relevant than in the current global environment.

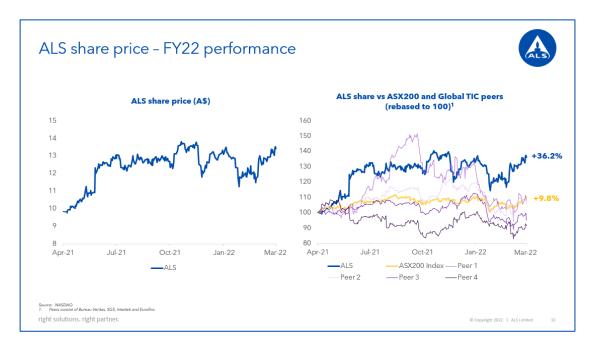
During the year, the Group achieved a 15% reduction in carbon intensity which is a significant step to meeting its long-term emission reduction target of 40% in carbon intensity for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030. This was achieved through investments in new solar PV systems, increased use of electric and hybrid vehicles across our fleet, replacing more than 6,600 conventional lights with LEDs, and purchasing >25% of our electricity needs from renewable sources.

A commitment to a sustainable future for ALS operations is of paramount importance to all our stakeholders. We acknowledge our responsibility and role in participating in a more sustainable future, and as such have committed to be carbon neutral for our scope 1 and 2 emissions from FY23 onwards. We are also developing a roadmap that will see the business achieve net zero carbon emissionswhich will be released later this financial year.

Also, as committed at last year's AGM, the Company repaid all government subsidies received during the early stages of the global pandemic, demonstrating one of our key sustainability objectives of supporting the communities in which we operate.



### Remuneration



Turning now to remuneration.

Your board strives to deliver a balanced and measured set of remuneration outcomes that align with the culture, strategy and performance of the business, and the contribution of our global executives.

As a result of the record performance against financial, strategic and ESG KPIs, FY 22 STI vesting outcomes for our key executives ranged between 90 to 100% of maximum opportunity. Outperformance against financial targets, strong cash and debt management, excellent safety and sustainability outcomes, and consistent progress against key non-financial strategic objectives drove this deserved outcome.

Due to the sustained performance against each of the four performance hurdles over the last three-year period, the 2019 LTI Awards vested at 100%. Achievement of this result reflects a balanced and consistently strong performance against absolute (EPS & ROCE) measures, and relative (TSR & EBITDA margin) measures.

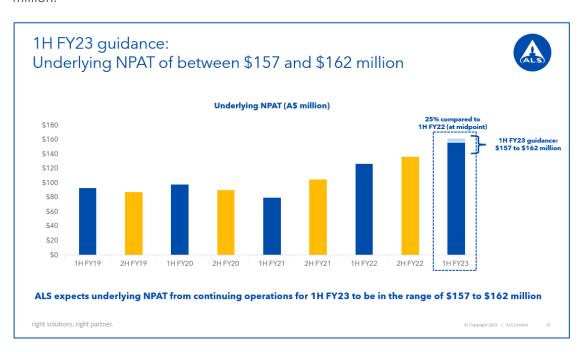
Looking forward, as a result of the increased scope of KMP roles as the business further moves to a globally aligned structure, and in recognition of continued market demand for senior executives in the industry internationally, and in particular following external benchmarking across relevant industry and geographic peers, the Board has approved the following changes to our KMP remuneration framework commencing in FY23:

- 1. For the CEO, no fixed remuneration increase, but an increase in STI opportunity from 60 to 70% at target and an increase in the LTI opportunity from 100 to 150%;
- 2. For other executive KMP, an increase in fixed remuneration ranging from 3 to 15%, an increase in LTI opportunity from 60 to 110%, but no change to the STI opportunity which remains 60% at target.

The Board believes that these changes align executives with shareholders by rewarding long-term value creation whilst providing market aligned incentives to retain our talented management team. We will continue to review both STI and LTI targets to ensure they remain challenging, and are aligned with strategic objectives.



The Non-Executive Director fees have also been increased by 5% for FY23, noting that fees have remained fixed since 2019. As a result of the increased complexity of our global business, and associated workloads of directors, the Board will be increased in size by one director from FY23. In conjunction with appropriate overlapping of non-executive directors associated with board succession plans, we are seeking shareholder approval at this meeting to increase the fee cap pool from \$1.65 million to \$1.90 million.



#### 1H FY23 Guidance

In terms of financial guidance, today we are returning to our tradition of providing first half guidance at the AGM. On the basis of no significant deterioration in trading conditions, we expect to deliver underlying NPAT of between \$157m and \$162m in the first half of FY23, an increase of 20% compared to \$127.1 million in the prior corresponding period, albeit this was during the pandemic.

Raj will provide more commentary regarding this guidance and the business outlook in his presentation.

#### Conclusion

Finally, I wish to say thank you to my Board colleagues for their guidance and support during what was a very busy year. I'm sure you will also join with me in thanking the management team, and indeed all the talented and dedicated people across our business, for their hard work and dedication during difficult times.

Most importantly I wish to thank you, our shareholders, for your continued loyalty and support.

I will now hand over to Raj who will provide further detail on the FY22 operational performance, more on the outlook for the first half of FY23, and expand on the new 5 year strategy for the Group.

Thank you.