

19 February 2024
 ASX / Media Release

Argo Infrastructure maintains interim dividend

Argo Global Listed Infrastructure Limited (ASX code: ALI) announces a fully franked interim dividend of 4.0 cents per share. The Company reports a half-year accounting loss of \$3.9 million which is attributable largely to the downward revaluation of the investment portfolio to market value as at 31 December 2023.

Summary of financial results

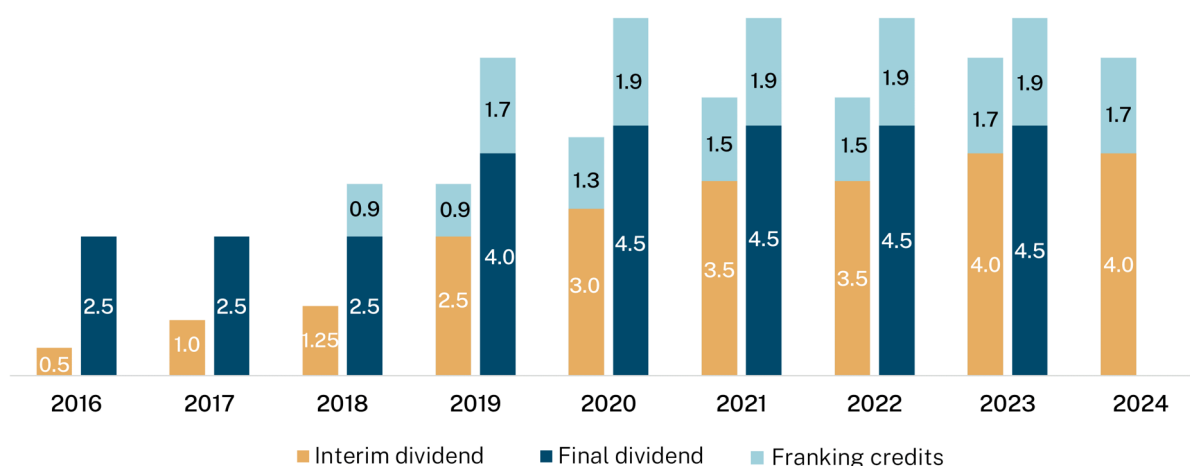
	Half-year to 31 December 2023	Half-year to 31 December 2022
Dividend and distribution income	\$6.5 million	\$6.6 million
Profit/(Loss)*	(\$3.9 million)	\$1.3 million
Interim dividend per share (fully franked)	4.0 cents	4.0 cents
Net Assets	\$407 million	\$416 million

* Reported profit can be volatile as accounting standards require that operating income and realised profits and losses are added to, or reduced by, unrealised changes in the portfolio's market value from period to period.

Reliable fully franked dividends

The interim dividend is Argo Infrastructure's 12th consecutive fully franked dividend. Including this interim dividend, total dividends paid out to our shareholders since inception (July 2015) now total 52.75 cents per share.

Dividend history (cents per share)



Argo Infrastructure pays tax in Australia on income received and realised capital gains, so we are able to pay franked dividends to our shareholders. This is a significant advantage of investing in international assets via an Australian listed investment company (LIC) structure, as compared to a trust structure or investing directly overseas.

Investment performance

Ongoing and aggressive interest rate rises and the spike in bond yields during the period weighed on global infrastructure stocks and saw them underperform broader equity markets.

For the half-year to 31 December 2023, Argo Infrastructure's investment portfolio delivered a total return of -0.9% (in A\$ terms) slightly behind the infrastructure benchmark return of -0.5%. For the 2023 calendar year, the portfolio returned +2.0%, ahead of the benchmark return of +1.6%.

Outlook

The lingering high cost of capital remains a headwind for global infrastructure stocks. Utilities (which dominate the asset class) are particularly affected as these companies can carry considerable debt due to the reliable income streams they derive from providing essential services. However, as the monetary cycle progresses and interest rates likely decline, we expect that infrastructure stocks globally will revert to generating average long-term returns.

In the current credit environment, Argo Infrastructure's specialist Portfolio Manager, Cohen & Steers, maintains a bias towards infrastructure businesses that have strong balance sheets with limited near-term debt maturities and manageable refinancing schedules.

With over \$400 million of assets invested in a diversified portfolio of major global infrastructure stocks and no debt, Argo Infrastructure enters the new calendar year in a strong financial position.

Contacts

Jason Beddow
Managing Director
02 8274 4702

Meredith Hemsley
Communications Manager
02 8274 4707

About Argo Infrastructure

Argo Global Listed Infrastructure (Argo Infrastructure) (ASX code: ALI) provides investors with exposure to a portfolio of global listed infrastructure securities, diversified across both emerging and developed economies and spanning the full spectrum of infrastructure assets, including those not accessible via the ASX. Argo Infrastructure was founded in 2015 by Argo Investments (ASX code: ARG) and today has more than \$400 million in assets and over 9,100 shareholders.