

2024 Annual General Meeting

Questions and Answers

Q1. Why can't the AGM be conducted using technology?

A1. The BirdLife Australia Constitution currently prohibits an AGM to be held fully online. It does not prohibit a meeting using some technology, but it does not expressly permit it either. BirdLife will livestream the AGM which will allow members to follow the proceedings of the meeting remotely. BirdLife Australia will continue to explore enabling technologies / opportunities to support our future AGMs.

Q2. Will an AGM by proxy be legal?

A2. Yes. Under our Constitution, the BirdLife Australia AGM can be validly held with the President in the Chair, provided there are at least 39 proxies to meet the quorum of 40 members. (Proxies are counted in the quorum.)

Q3. How can I join the AGM via a Teams webinar?

A3. Members can register to attend via the AGM page on the BirdLife Australia website. However, members participating remotely will not be able to vote or ask questions via the Teams webinar; these should be submitted via the proxy forms. The AGM will be recorded and uploaded to the AGM section of the BirdLife website after the meeting.

Q4. Is the BirdLife Australia Board confident that proxy votes are an effective way for members to participate?

A4. Yes. Last year the 2023 AGM was held by proxy with a very positive response from members. Our membership is familiar with the concept of proxy participation which has always been a key element of our AGMs and always features prominently in our AGM documentation. In the five years prior to the first AGM by proxy in 2023, at least 80% of membership participation in our AGMs was by proxy.

We encourage the receipt of proxies before the meeting to facilitate wider participation from all members, particularly those who are unable to attend the meeting in-person.

Q5. If members can't attend the AGM, how will members know how the organisation is going?

A5. The full documentation normally available for any AGM will still be provided to members through the BirdLife Australia's website, well before they need to cast their proxy votes. This includes:

- Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on 27 May 2023
- 2023 Annual Report and 2023 Financial Report
- Candidate Statements for the election of Directors
- Honorary Life Member Awards Citations

A special AGM page has been established on the BirdLife Australia website, including Q&As. Members can email or post their own questions related to the business of the AGM via their proxy form, including questions to the External Auditor, the Board or senior management. Answers will be provided on the website for members to see after the AGM.

The CEO report, which is a highlight of AGMs, will also be available on our website before the AGM.

Q6. How did BirdLife Australia perform in the year under review?

A6. BirdLife Australia performed well in 2023 despite the challenging economic environment. The Annual Report notes significant conservation achievements. Total Revenue increased by \$1.5m compared to 2022, but Underlying Revenue decreased by \$3.3m.

Expenditure increased by \$2.3m compared to 2022. This is mainly due to resources required to deliver conservation projects and programs, and the Digital Engagement Project.