

How to read the proxy voting (VDS) Dashboard

Colonial First State (CFS) offers members access to a dashboard where they can see how votes have been cast for all holdings across the FirstChoice platform. This dashboard is provided by our third party proxy voting provider and is known as VDS (Vote Disclosure Services). This interactive tool allows a dynamic display of voting records via statistical graphics, with the opportunity to highlight key votes.

Filters

This section allows the viewer to set particular guidelines for a search, whether they are interested in a particular a particular company, or all votes cast over the period. The filters available are:

- Meeting Date Range
- Market
- Significant Meetings
- Company Search

Note that these voting records begin from 1 January 2022 and best efforts are made to keep them as up to date as possible.

Voting Statistics

This section shows how the votes have been cast across various proposals. A vote may be cast 'For' 'Against', 'Abstain' or 'Did not vote'. (For US companies there is also a 'One Year' vote recorded which refers to the 'Say on Pay' resolutions. Say on Pay is a term used to describe a role in which a company's shareholders have the right to vote on executive remuneration.)

Details of the companies involved are available by clicking on the 'Expand' button. Further detail on the proposals voted on is available by clicking on the company name.

Meetings by Meeting Type

Whilst most voting occurs at the company annual general meeting, there may be other occasions where shareholders can be asked to cast their votes.

Details of the companies involved are available by clicking on the 'Expand' button. Further detail on the proposals voted on is available by clicking on the company name.

Votes Cast by Proposal Category

Split between management and shareholder proposals, depending on who brought the proposal to a vote, this section further classifies the proposals depending on the subject they cover.

Details of the companies involved are available by clicking on the 'Expand' button. Further detail on the proposals voted on is available by clicking on the company name.

Alignment with Management

This section shows how aligned shareholders are with management recommendations. Many of our managers would view it as a good sign to see the majority of votes cast being in alignment as they would hope to engage with companies before a vote rather than vote against a proposal. However, it may be healthy to have some votes against management as it shows where an investor can be active in using their voice when they disagree with management decisions.

Details of the companies involved are available by clicking on the 'Expand' button. Further detail on the proposals voted on is available by clicking on the company name.

Meetings by Market

This section shows a geographical view of where meetings took place.

Details of the companies involved are available by clicking on the 'Expand' button. Further detail on the proposals voted on is available by clicking on the company name.

Meetings by Sector

This section shows a pictorial view of which sectors the meetings covered.

Details of the companies involved are available by clicking on the 'Expand' button. Further detail on the proposals voted on is available by clicking on the company name.