Manager
Market Conduct Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600

October 29, 2020.

Dear Sir / Madam

**Re: Making permanent reforms in respect of virtual meetings and electronic document execution**

As an Investor Relations professional for close to 15 years, including 10+ years providing consulting services to smaller ASX-listed companies, I see great merit in the proposals to allow the option of virtual AGMs and electronic document execution and fully support these measures.

From experience, while these proposals will undoubtedly benefit all listed companies, they’ll be particularly beneficial to smaller companies. Two reasons:

* Typically, attendance at smaller companies’ AGMs is low. Anecdotal evidence suggests attendance increases when a shareholder can attend virtually.
* There are significant savings to the listed entity from the use of technology or electronic means for document execution (and AGMs), ultimately to the benefit for shareholders. It is also a more efficient means of communication as is currently the case a shareholder should retain the option for document execution via post.

Finally, I reject the recent comments against this Bill that indicate virtual AGMs discourage or prevent Boards from being answerable to shareholders. Given this year has been particularly difficult, the temporary relief measures introduced supported companies in meeting their obligations to shareholders. With some appropriate guidance on the conduct of virtual or hybrid meetings, the standards will improve ensuring they match the standards we have come to expect of physical meetings.

Yours sincerely

**Christine Bowen**

**Principal Consultant**

**communicaterelate consulting**