

## AGENDA PAPER

**Item Number:** 4  
**Date of Meeting:** 6 March 2020  
**Subject:** Project Proposal on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology

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**Action Required**       **For Discussion**       **For Noting**       **For Information**

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### Purpose

To obtain the Board's approval to commence a project on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology.

### Background

Technological innovations and developments have been a large consideration across a number of APESB's recent projects, including the revision of APES 310 *Client Monies* and the recent restructure project which saw all of APESB's pronouncements being revised to align with the restructured *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code).

As part of the due process for the pronouncement restructure project, APESB sought feedback on the applicability of our standards to the increasing use of technology in the accounting industry. APESB received limited feedback on this matter, with only one stakeholder suggesting that if there were changes required for technological matters, they should be included in the Code.

While the Board received limited feedback, it is aware that technological developments will have a large impact on the accounting profession. Therefore, at the August 2019 Board meeting, the Board requested Technical Staff to develop a project plan to consider the applicability of the current ethical and professional standards to Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies.

### Consideration of issues

The aim of the project is to build an understanding of how Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology is being used by professional accountants and to determine whether additional professional and ethical obligations or guidance is required in this area to assist professional accountants

The project is proposed to commence in late March 2020 with a completion timeframe of eighteen months to twenty-four months.

Refer to Agenda Item 4(a) for the detailed proposed project plan on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology.

### **Staff Recommendation**

The Board approve the project proposal to commence a project on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology.

### **Material Presented**

Agenda Item 4(a)                      Project Proposal: Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology

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