

Meeting Highlights

6 MARCH 2025

1. Register of Interests

The Board noted Agenda Item 2 *Register of Interests*.

2. Issues Register

The Board noted Agenda Item 3 *Issues Register*.

The Board considered and discussed the Issues Register for 2025.

The Board noted the addition of new matters for APES 110 to amend the definition of “Public Interest Entity” to correct a reference to the *Corporations Act 2001*, APES 230 *Financial Planning Services* to consider potential impacts of the current legislative reforms, APES 220 *Taxation Services* to update the reference to the new TPB Information Sheet on supervisory arrangements and the inclusion of the definition of “Confidential Information” in five APESB pronouncements.

3. International and other activities

The Board noted Agenda Item 4 *International and other activities*.

The Board noted that APESB CEO and IESBA Vice Chair Channa Wijesinghe joined Mr Mark Babington, the FRC UK Executive Director of Regulatory Standards and IESBA Board Member, in his outreach activities in Australia during 19-26 February 2025.

4. Update on the IESBA Firm Culture and Governance Project

The Board noted Agenda Item 5 *Update on the IESBA Firm Culture and Governance Project*.

The Board noted that the IESBA accepted the Firm Culture and Governance Working Group’s Final Report and approved the project on accounting firm culture and governance at its December 2024 meeting. The IESBA is set to host a global roundtable in Melbourne on 20th March 2025 for Trans-Tasman stakeholders, with the APESB Chair and an APESB director scheduled to attend.

5. Sustainability Update

The Board noted Agenda Item 6 *Sustainability Update*.

The Board considered the update on sustainability and discussed the developments occurring at both the international and local levels.

The CEO provided an update on the IESSA Independence Standards released in January 2025. The topics covered included the interoperability and framework-neutral nature of the IAASB's ISSA 5000 and the IESBA's IESSA, the determination of PIEs for sustainability engagements, the independence of assurance providers, the use of other practitioners' work, the effective dates and transitional provisions.

6. Update from the AUASB on Sustainability Assurance

The Board noted Agenda Item 7 *Update from the AUASB on Sustainability Assurance*.

The Board considered the update on ASSA 5000 and ASSA 5010 provided by AUASB Chair Mr Doug Niven.

The update provided an overview of the ASSA standards, including the effective date of ASSA 5000, which takes effect on 1 January 2025. The Board noted that the ASSA 5000 temporarily references the relevant ethical requirements for sustainability assurance in Parts 1 to 3 of APES 110 and Part 5 of the IESSA until the release of the final APES 110 for sustainability assurance.

The Board considered that early adoption of the standard may cause some challenges in Australia and agreed to collaborate with AUASB to address any ethical and independence considerations.

7. Proposed revisions to APES 110 for Sustainability Assurance and Reporting

The Board noted Agenda Item 8 *Proposed revisions to APES 110 for Sustainability Assurance and Reporting*.

The Board considered the draft exposure draft, which aligns with the IESBA's final pronouncement on Sustainability Assurance and Reporting released in January 2025. The draft exposure draft also incorporates Australian-specific amendments that broadly mirror the Australian-specific provisions in the extant APES 110. The Board also considered the proposed effective dates and transitional provisions for value chain components.

Subject to including the value chain transitional relief provisions under the heading "Transitional Relief," the Board approved the issue of the exposure draft *Proposed Australian Ethics Standards for Sustainability Assurance (including Independence Standards) and Other Revisions to the Code Relating to Sustainability Assurance and Reporting* with a 45-day comment period.

8. Proposed revisions to APES 110 for Use of External Experts

The Board noted Agenda Item 9 *Proposed revisions to APES 110 for Use of External Experts*.

The Board considered the draft exposure draft, which aligns with the IESBA's final pronouncement *Revisions to the Code Addressing Using the Work of an External Expert* released in January 2025. It also incorporates Australian-specific provisions, such as a footnote referring to the prohibition of contingent fee arrangements for External Expert. The Board noted the inclusion in the exposure draft of a request for specific comments seeking stakeholders' views on the proposed transitional provisions.

The Board approved the issue of the exposure draft *Proposed Revisions to APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) Addressing Using the Work of an External Expert* with a 45-day comment period.