Australian Government
Auditing and Assurance Standards Board

AUASB STRATEGY 2015-2019

AUASB Vision Statement

To be recognised by key stakeholders as a leading national auditing and assurance standards-setting body.

AUASB Mission Statement

To develop, in the public interest, high quality auditing and assurance standards and related guidance as a means to enhance the relevance, reliability and timeliness of information provided to users of audit and assurance services.

AUASB Strategic Objectives

1. *Increase confidence in assurance on external reporting by contributing to the development of and converging with one set of robust international auditing and assurance standards*
2. *Be recognised by key stakeholders as the standards-setting body in Australia that formulates and maintains auditing and assurance standards and guidance pronouncements that address local issues*
3. *Provide thought leadership, identify and respond to emerging issues*
4. *Communicate and engage with stakeholders to promote audit quality and increase engagement in developing standards and promote consistency in the application of AUASB pronouncements*
5. *Harmonise Australian and New Zealand auditing and assurance standards*

1 September 2015

AUASB Initiatives and Functions Mapped to Strategy and KPI's for 2015-2019

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiative and 2016	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1. *Increase confidence in assurance on external reporting by contributing to the development of, and convergence with, one set of robust international auditing and assurance standards*	**Participate in IAASB activities:**				
	• Attend and actively contribute to quarterly IAASB meetings;	√	√	√	√
	• Participate in the annual IAASB-NSS meeting;	√	√	√	√
	• Contribute to relevant IAASB projects and as appropriate, participate in IAASB working groups; and	√ <IR>, ISRS 4400	√ at least one	√	√
	• Provide AUASB submissions to the IAASB on all exposure drafts and discussion and consultation papers.	√ Revision of ISA 720, ISA 800, 805	√ at least one	√	√
	AUASB international-related initiatives:				
	• Issue IAASB related Australian equivalent exposure drafts in a timely manner;	√	√	√	√
	• IAASB equivalent, or ISA plus, standards adopted by the AUASB with the same application dates;	√	√	√	√
	• Conduct post-implementation reviews of IAASB equivalent issued AUASB Standards;	√	√	√	√
	• Respond to all IAASB and NSS feedback requests and surveys; and	√	√	√	√ AR project
	• Actively promote and maintain a strong relationship with the IAASB and other National Standards Setters (NSS).	√ Liaise pre annual NSS mtg	√	√	√

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiative and KPI's	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
2. Be recognised by key stakeholders as the standards-setting body in Australia that formulates and maintains auditing and assurance standards and guidance pronouncements to address local issues	**Increase awareness and acceptance of AUASB pronouncements, in particular, their application to government agencies and other bodies:**				
	• Actively liaise and engage with regulatory agencies, including ASIC, APRA, ACNC, CER, and ATO, to encourage their audit and other assurance requirements to be aligned with AUASB pronouncements.	√ at least Quarterly	√	√	√
	Formulate and maintain high quality Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards that conform with the IAASB equivalents, address local regulatory issues and promote consistency in application:				
	• Consider Australian legislative and other regulatory requirements when considering adoption of IAASB standards and identify any changes that may be consequentially required to the Auditing and Assurance Standards via the *compelling reason*s test.	√ for each new/revised standard	√	√	√
	• Reflecting the above, issue AUASB auditing and assurance standards that conform with IAASB equivalent standards, and develop standards for other areas, addressing auditing and assurance needs identified for Australia.	√	√	√	√
	Formulate and maintain high quality Guidance Statements and other pronouncements that address local regulatory and other issues and promote consistency in application:				
	• Develop and revise, as appropriate, AUASB Guidance Statements which will provide practical guidance to auditors and assurance practitioners on industry related areas, such as those regulated by ASIC, APRA, ATO, CER and other regulators.	√	√	√	√

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiative and KPI's	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
3. Provide thought leadership, identify and respond to emerging issues	**Identify and respond to significant auditing and assurance issues of public interest on a timely basis:**				
	• Identify emerging issues (such as integrated reporting, data analytics) and determine appropriate action;	√	√	√	√
	• Participate in determining policy issues and any amendments to legislation and regulation arising from the international debate on audit quality and audit regulation;	√	√	√	√
	• Respond to local and international developments to enhance the role, relevance and quality of audit and assurance services to promote audit quality systemically and at the engagement level;	√	√	√	√
	• Enhance the profile of the AUASB as a leading national standards-setter as a result of activities involving thought leadership;	√	√	√	√
	• Consult with subject matter experts, where appropriate, in addressing the key emerging topics as identified from time to time; and	√	√	√	√
	• Contribute to policy debates, such as the external reporting framework and appropriate assurance.	√	√	√	√

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiative and KPI's	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
3 *Provide thought leadership and identify emerging issues* **(cont'd)**	**Proactively monitor international developments on auditing and assurance including:**				
	• Monitor the activities of other auditing standards-setting bodies (including Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States and South Africa) and the work of other international regulatory bodies (including IOSCO, PCAOB and IFIAR), and consider any matters they have considered that may potentially impact on AUASB pronouncements;	√ monthly	√	√	√
	• Monitor and promote the work of other international bodies, such as FEE and the IIRC; and	√ monthly	√	√	√
	• Prepare International Auditing and Assurance Update e-publication covering IAASB and other national auditing standards-setters' activities for AUASB meetings and for publishing on the AUASB website.	√ at least quarterly	√	√	√

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiative and KPI's	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
4. *Communicate and engage with stakeholders to promote audit quality and increase engagement in developing standards and promote consistency in the application of AUASB pronouncements*	**Actively engage with stakeholders:**				
	• Engage with Australian stakeholders, regulatory bodies, professional accounting bodies, practitioners, preparers, users and other stakeholders (including Australian Treasury, ASIC, APRA, ACNC, CER and ATO) to promote audit quality and consistency in the application of AUASB pronouncements:	√ regularly	√	√	√
	- engage directly with key stakeholders on a timely basis on topical issues;	√	√	√	√
	- conduct topic-specific roundtable meetings to gather feedback;	√ on major proposals	√	√	√
	- conduct surveys to identify the needs of stakeholders and other users of auditing and assurance services; and	√	√	√	√
	- conduct the annual AUASB Consultative Meeting with stakeholders to discuss significant projects and to obtain their input on what should be the AUASB's work plan priorities;	√ 19 April 2016	√ April 2017	√ April 2018	√ April 2019
	• Conduct post-implementation reviews of all issued AUASB standards;	√ ASAEs 3420 & 3450	√	√	√
	• Engage with practitioners, professional bodies and regulators to assist with consistent understanding, and implementation, of the principles underlying standards and the resultant work effort and evidence requirements; and	√	√	√	√
	• Engage with the FRC through the AUASB Chairman's active involvement, including through membership of Audit Quality Committee;	√ at least Quarterly	√	√	√

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiative and KPI's	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
4. Communicate and engage with stakeholders to promote audit quality and increase engagement in developing standards and promote consistency in the application of AUASB pronouncements **(cont'd)**	• Participate in public debate, conferences and seminars on topics relevant to global auditing and assurance standards and strategic audit and assurance issues; and	√	√	√	√
	• Contribute articles for relevant professional publications that highlight key principles of, or major changes to, the AUASB pronouncements.	√	√	√	√
	Identify AUASB stakeholders and understand their needs and expectations:				
	• Conduct stakeholder satisfaction survey and use feedback results to obtain benchmark for performance improvement;	√ develop	√ monitor & improve	√	√
	• Create and maintain a key stakeholders contacts database; and	√ create	√ maintain & improve	√	√
	• Increase media mentions, social media activity and level of participation at AUASB events.	√ create	√ monitor & grow	√	√

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiative and KPI's	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
5. *Harmonise Australian and New Zealand auditing and assurance standards*	**Harmonise, wherever possible, given the different regulatory environments, Australian and New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards through working actively with the NZAuASB:**				
	• Engage with the NZAuASB Chairman, NZAuASB staff and relevant board members when drafting auditing and assurance standards that will be adopted jointly to understand if there are likely to be any harmonisation differences; and	√ review board papers and provide feedback	√	√	√
	• Collate and reconcile any differences between Australian and New Zealand standards, and the reasons therefor: - prepare compelling reasons test documentation to explain all differences, including with any underlying IAASB standard(s).	√ Service Performance Reporting project	√	√	√