



AUASB Board Meeting Summary Paper

AGENDA ITEM NO. **9**

Meeting Date: 2 December 2013

Subject: Proposed Standard on Assurance Engagements on General Purpose Water Accounting Reports

Date Prepared: 27 November 2013

Action Required

For Information Purposes Only

Agenda Item Objectives

The objectives of this Agenda Item are to:

1. Inform the AUASB about developments in the joint AUASB/Water Accounting Standards Board (WASB) project to develop a standard on assurance engagements on general purpose water accounting reports; and
2. Obtain the AUASB's feedback on the revised draft Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3xxx / Australian Water Accounting Standard AWAS 2 *Assurance Engagements on General Purpose Water Accounting Reports*, current as at November 2013.

Background

In 2010, the AUASB agreed to work with the WASB to develop a standard for assurance engagements on water accounting reports.

To facilitate an effective process and appropriate governance for the development of the standard, the AUASB agreed to the establishment of a 6 person Steering Committee to guide the project and report to the respective Boards on its progress. In addition, the AUASB agreed to the establishment of a Project Advisory Group comprising representatives from both the water and accounting/assurance fields to provide input and advice to the Steering Committee. A Standard Development Team supports the Steering Committee and Project Advisory Group.

The Steering Committee has met 16 times and the Project Advisory Group has met 4 times during the project.

Concurrently with this project, the WASB developed and issued Australian Water Accounting Standard 1 (AWAS1), which was officially launched by the Bureau of Meteorology on 8 October 2012. Copies of AWAS 1 and related Illustrative Water Accounting Reports have previously been provided to the AUASB.

This document contains preliminary views and/or AUASB Technical Group recommendations to be considered at a meeting of the AUASB, and does not necessarily reflect the final decisions of the AUASB. No responsibility is taken for the results of actions or omissions to act on the basis of reliance on any information contained in this document (including any attachments), or for any errors or omissions in it.

Matters to Consider

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met again on 19 November 2013, to consider feedback from the WASB and AUASB meetings in October 2013. The Steering Committee noted the need to consider also any changes arising from the final ISAE 3000 and conforming amendments to ISAE 3410.

The Steering Committee will meet again in mid-January 2014 to review the final standard subsequent to the WASB and AUASB meetings in December 2013.

Water Accounting Standards Board

WASB is scheduled to meet again on 23 December 2013 to consider the revised draft of the assurance standard for approval to issue, subject to approval by the AUASB and the Bureau.

Draft Assurance Standard

The draft assurance standard for water accounting reports, current as at 28 November 2013, is provided at Agenda Item 9.1, for the AUASB's consideration and feedback. The AUASB's feedback will be incorporated into the draft standard, together with any changes arising from consideration of the proposed standards ASAE 3000 and ASAE 3410 (see Agenda Items 3 and 4); feedback from the WASB meeting on 23 December 2013 and final QA by AUASB technical staff.

Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR)

A Regulation Impact Assessment has been prepared jointly by the AUASB and WASB, and submitted to the OBPR for clearance.

Project Timeline

It is anticipated the standard will be issued in February 2014.

AUASB Technical Group Recommendations

The AUASB is asked to consider the revised draft standard and provide feedback on it with a view to subsequent out-of-session approval after the AUASB meeting and release by mid-February 2014.

Material Presented

Agenda Item 9 AUASB Board Meeting Summary Paper

Agenda Item 9.1 Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3xxx / Australian Water Accounting Standard AWAS 2 *Assurance Engagements on General Purpose Water Accounting Reports* (Confidential draft)

Action Required

No.	Action Item	Deliverable	Responsibility	Due Date	Status
1.	Consider revised draft standard	Feedback on the revised draft standard	AUASB	2 Dec 2013	o/s

This document contains preliminary views and/or AUASB Technical Group recommendations to be considered at a meeting of the AUASB, and does not necessarily reflect the final decisions of the AUASB. No responsibility is taken for the results of actions or omissions to act on the basis of reliance on any information contained in this document (including any attachments), or for any errors or omissions in it.