



Board Meeting Summary Paper

Subject: NGERS – Update on NGERS Activities and liaison with DCCEE
Date: 6 April 2011

AUASB AGENDA ITEM NO. 12
Meeting Date: 18-19 April 2011

Action Required

X For Information Purposes Only

Agenda Item Objectives

To provide an update on NGERS activities and liaison with the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE).

Background

The Greenhouse and Energy Data Officer (GEDO) at the DCCEE is responsible for the administration and regulation of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS). The GEDO's primary focus during 2010 was to register Greenhouse and Energy Auditors. The GEDO's focus for 2011 is the conduct of pilot audits under NGERS. The pilot audits entail trialling the audit methodology set out under the NGERS framework.

AUASB staff met with the GEDO and DCCEE staff in early February to obtain an update on the implementation of the NGERS framework, which was reported on at the 28 February 2011 AUASB meeting and again, after the recent roundtable meetings on Assurance on Greenhouse Statements.

Matters to Consider

The GEDO and DCCEE staff attended the AUASB Roundtable on ISAE 3410 *Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements* on 29 March 2011 and made a brief presentation to participants on the DCCEE's experience of assurance under NGERS. The GEDO and DCCEE are interested in the progress of ISAE 3410 and how this standard, once an equivalent is issued in Australia, may be linked into the NGERS requirements.

The GEDO has raised with the AUASB Chairman the possibility of issuing joint guidance on the application of a future ASAE 3410 to NGERS assurance engagements – a matter which will require discussion with the

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Board. The DCCEE will also be conducting NGERS workshops, which the AUASB staff will have the opportunity to participate in or observe over the next few months.

Some voluntary NGERS audits are being conducted at the initiation of emitters. These “audits” range from verification (agreed-upon procedures) to reasonable or limited assurance. The greater part of GH&E auditors current work with emitters is with respect to benchmarking, in order to establish systems and measurement methodologies which will enable reporting in accordance with NGERS which it is also possible to assure.

Once the Government’s Carbon Tax proposals are enacted in legislation, then this will have a major impact on NGERS, as emissions reported under such a scheme are expected to be required to be subject to reasonable assurance prior to submission.

Material Presented

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