



AUASB Board Meeting Summary Paper

AGENDA ITEM NO. **13**

Meeting Date: 29 April 2013

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

Date Prepared: 17 April 2013

Action Required

For Information Purposes Only

Agenda Item Objectives

To inform the AUASB's about developments in the joint AUASB/WASB project to develop a standard on assurance engagements on general purpose water accounting reports.

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 14 times and the Project Advisory Group has met 4 times during the project.

Concurrently with this project, the WASB has been developing Australian Water Accounting Standard 1 (AWAS 1), 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

Exposure Draft

At its meeting on 26 November 2012, the AUASB approved the proposed exposure draft of a standard for assurance engagements on general purpose water accounting reports, subject to final QA processes. The exposure draft was published on 17 December 2012, for comment by 15 March 2013.

Nine responses to the exposure draft were received from the following parties:

- Australasian Council of Auditors-General
- BDO
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (Vic)
- Ernst and Young
- Joint Accounting Bodies
- Minerals Council of Australia
- James Hazelton (Macquarie University)
- Office of Water (NSW)
- Department of Water (WA)

The Steering Committee met on 12 April to consider the responses received and, as a result of that meeting, the Standard Development Team is making some minor amendments to the proposed assurance standard. The notes of the Steering Committee discussions are provided at Agenda Item 13.1.

Stakeholder Information Session

On 21 February 2013, a joint AUASB/WASB stakeholder information session was conducted via videoconference, with 51 attendees from Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane. The notes from the stakeholder information session are provided at Agenda Item 13.2.

Project Timeline

The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet again in June 2013 to consider the amended proposed standard for clearance, for approval by both the AUASB and WASB/BoM.

A timeline for the finalisation of the project is provided at Agenda Item 13.3.

Material Presented

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| Agenda Item 13 | AUASB Board Meeting Summary Paper |
| Agenda Item 13.1 | Draft notes from Steering Committee discussions held on 12 April 2013 |
| Agenda Item 13.2 | Notes from stakeholder information session held on 21 February 2013 |
| Agenda Item 13.3 | Timeline for the finalisation of the project |