



# AUASB Board Meeting Summary Paper

---

**AGENDA ITEM NO.**           **9**

**Meeting Date:**               16 April 2019

**Subject:**                       Public Sector Audit Issues PAG Update

**Date Prepared:**             9 April 2019

**Prepared By:**               Matthew Zappulla

---

**Action Required**

**For Information Purposes Only**

---

## Agenda Item Objectives

1. Report to AUASB on the progress of the Public Sector Audit Issues Project Advisory Group (PAG).

## Background

1. The AUASB approved the Strategic Project Plan focusing on Public Sector Audit Issues at its April 2018 meeting.
2. Following a period of scoping and consultation with relevant stakeholders, including representatives from the Australasian Council of Auditors-General (ACAG) the terms of reference and project plan for the Public Sector Audit Issues PAG were developed and finalised in the second half of 2018.
3. An invitation to nominate representatives to the PAG was communicated to ACAG and each Australian Auditor-General in December 2018. The members of the PAG were confirmed and approved by the AUASB Chair in February 2019.
4. The PAG held its first meeting on 7 March 2019 and has subsequently held a further meeting on 1 April 2019, with monthly meetings planned to progress the objectives of the PAG over the rest of 2019.

## Matters to Consider

1. The Public Sector Audit Issues PAG Terms of Reference and Membership were confirmed by the PAG Chair, Julie Crisp (NT Auditor-General and AUASB Member) at the first PAG meeting on 7 March 2019. The PAG membership is a very highly experienced and motivated group of public sector auditors, most of which already have good relationships with the AUASB. PAG Members are:

---

*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.*

- Ms Julie Crisp (Chair) – Northern Territory Auditor-General & AUASB member
  - Mr Chris Clayton – Audit Office of New South Wales
  - Mr Don Cunninghame – Office of the Auditor General for Western Australian
  - Ms Karen Johnson – Queensland Audit Office
  - Ms Jane Meade – Australian National Audit Office
  - Ms Rosario S. Miguel – ACT Audit Office
  - Ms Tanya Sexton – Auditor-General’s Department South Australia
  - Ms Roberta Skliros – Victorian Auditor-General’s Office
  - Mr Jeff Tongs – Tasmanian Audit Office
2. PAG members are being supported by the AUASB Technical Director and AUASB staff Tim Austin and Jean You.
  3. The first PAG meeting covered the scope and objective of the PAG, with members asked to reaffirm that the Terms of Reference were still appropriate and consistent with ACAG’s needs by addressing the following three topics as they relate to public sector audits:
    - (a) Terms of Engagement – ASA 210
    - (b) Engagement Leader responsibilities – ASA 220
    - (c) Going Concern – ASA 270
  4. The AUASB Technical Group (ATG) also provided an update to the PAG members on the progress of other international auditing standards and projects relevant to the public sector.
  5. Following the first PAG meeting the PAG Chair requested the AUASB Technical Group prepare a paper for the PAG outlining the different options for the PAG to consider as outputs from the project under the AUASB’s mandate for the next PAG meeting. This was so PAG members can better understand which option may apply to each Public Sector Audit Issue that is part of the project scope. The possible options were categorised as::
    - (a) AUASB approved pronouncements (Standards, Guidance Statements);
    - (b) Other AUASB publications (Bulletins, FAQs); and
    - (c) Specific public-sector auditor guidance.
  6. At the second PAG meeting on 1 April 2019 the PAG discussed this options paper, which highlighted a number of different views across PAG members about the preferred response to each topic. Following this meeting the ATG are surveying all PAG members for their preferred options, to build consensus and develop a more defined project plan for the PAG’s activities.
  7. The next Public Sector Audit Issues PAG meeting will be held in the first week of May 2019.

## **Material Presented**

Agenda Item 9

AUASB Board Meeting Summary Paper