

December 2025

# **Basis for Conclusions**

## ***ASSA 2025-10 Amendments to ASSA 5010 Timeline for Audits and Reviews of Information in Sustainability Reports under the Corporations Act 2001***

Prepared by the Office of the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board



**Australian Government**

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**Auditing and Assurance Standards Board**

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Basis for Conclusions ASSA 2025-10 *Amendments to ASSA 5010 Timeline for Audits and Reviews of Information in Sustainability Reports under the Corporations Act 2001* has been developed by the Office of the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) to provide a background to, and rationale for the development and approval of the Standard by the AUASB. The Basis for Conclusions relates to, but does not form part of, ASSA 2025-10.

No responsibility is taken for the results of actions or omissions to act on the basis of any information contained in this document or for any errors or omissions in it.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Background .....	5
Major Issues raised by Respondents on Exposure .....	5
Conclusion.....	6

## **BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS**

### **ASSA 2025-10 Amendments to ASSA 5010 *Timeline for Audits and Reviews of Information in Sustainability Reports under the Corporations Act 2001***

This Basis for Conclusions is issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB). It provides a background to, and rationale for the development and approval of the Standard by the AUASB. The Basis of Conclusions relates to, but does not form part of, ASSA 2025-10 Amendments to ASSA 5010 *Timeline for Audits and Reviews of Information in Sustainability Reports under the Corporations Act 2001*, and is not a substitute for reading the Standard.

#### **Background**

1. The AUASB issued ASSA 5010 *Timeline for Audits and Reviews of Information in Sustainability Reports under the Corporations Act 2001* (ASSA 5010) in January 2025 with an effective date of financial years commencing 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2030.
2. ED 02/25 was issued on 23 October 2025 by the AUASB with a 30-day comment period. ED 02/25 sought feedback from stakeholders on **two separate and distinct** proposed amendments to ASSA 5010 being:
  - (a) To clarify that the directors' declaration which forms part of a sustainability report as defined by the *Corporations Act 2001* (the Act) is required to be subject to audit or review for phasing Years 2 and 3; and
  - (b) To specify how the phasing in of assurance would apply if the amendments to the Act proposed by the *Treasury Laws Amendments (Strengthening Financial Systems and Other Measures) Bill 2025* (the Bill) on voluntary sustainability reporting under the Act are enacted.
3. The matter referred to in subparagraph 2(a) above will be considered further by the AUASB at its 26 February 2026 Board meeting. ASSA 2025-10 deals with the matter referred to in subparagraph 2(b) above.
4. ED 02/25 also proposed some other very minor changes to ASSA 5010.
5. The Bill passed both Houses of Parliament and received Royal Assent on 4 December 2025.

#### **Responses on Exposure**

6. The AUASB received 14 formal submissions to ED 02/25. All non-confidential submissions are available on the [AUASB website](#).

##### *Voluntary sustainability reports under the Act*

7. The majority of stakeholders supported the AUASB proposals in ED 02/25 to:
  - (a) Require assurance for voluntary sustainability reports aligned with the assurance phasing in requirements for Group 1, 2 or 3 entities based on when voluntary reporting under the Act commences; and
  - (b) Allow a reset of the phasing in of assurance for an entity that has opted in and out of voluntary reporting under the Act and later recommences reporting.
8. Stakeholders were supportive of this model as it was seen to balance the information needs of users with the cost of preparing and assuring information.
9. Whilst most stakeholders were supportive of the AUASB proposals, it was noted that the additional effort and cost of assurance may discourage entities from voluntary reporting under

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the Act and that some entities may publish sustainability information voluntarily without asserting compliance with the Act.

10. At its 17 December 2025 meeting (Meeting 170) the AUASB approved amendments to ASSA 5010 to implement the assurance phasing model as proposed in ED 02/25 for voluntary reporting under the Act.

**Conclusion**

11. The AUASB approved ASSA 2025-10 Amendments to ASSA 5010 *Timeline for Audits and Reviews of Information in Sustainability Reports under the Corporations Act 2001*, subject to minor editorial changes on 17 December 2025.
12. In reaching its conclusions the AUASB considered all stakeholder feedback.

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