

Meeting Highlights

17 JUNE 2025

1. Register of Interests

The Board noted Agenda Item 2 *Register of Interests*.

2. International and other activities

The Board noted Agenda Item 3 *International and other activities*.

The Board noted that the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (the IESBA) has issued guidance and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the new sustainability assurance ethics and independence standards (available on the IESBA website at <https://www.ethicsboard.org/>).

3. Proposed compilation of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)

The Board noted Agenda Item 4 *Proposed compilation of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*.

The Board approved the issue of a new Compiled APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (Compiled Code) to incorporate the recent amending standard, *Revisions to APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) Addressing Tax Planning and Related Services*.

4. Update from the AUASB on Sustainability Assurance Standards

The Board noted Agenda Item 5 *Update from the AUASB on Sustainability Assurance Standards*.

The Board received an update from the AUASB Chair, Mr Doug Niven, on the AUASB's May 2025 Board Meeting and decisions made relating to the sustainability assurance standards. ASSA 5000 *General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements* is to be updated with a key change being that the relevant ethical requirements to be applied under ASSA 5000 will refer to the current version of APES 110 instead of Parts 1 to 4A of APES 110 and Part 5 of the IESBA Code. The AUASB will consider issuing amendments to ASSA 5000 and ASA 102 *Compliance with Ethical Requirements when Performing Audits, Reviews and Other Assurance Engagements* to refer to the revised APES 110 once the APESB issues the Australian Sustainability-related ethical standards.

5. Review and Consideration of comments – ED 01/25 Sustainability Assurance and Reporting

The Board noted Agenda Item 6 *Review and consideration of comments – ED 01/25 Sustainability Assurance and Reporting*.

The Board considered the outcome of the due process for the Exposure Draft ED 01/25 *Proposed Australian Ethics Standards for Sustainability Assurance (including Independence Standards) and Other Revisions to the Code Relating to Sustainability Assurance and Reporting (AESSA)*.

The Board discussed the proposed effective date of 1 January 2027 for the Value Chain Components (VCC) provisions and the respondent's comments. Based on the respondents' feedback, the Board determined to delay the effective date to 1 July 2028 to align with the global effective date for the VCC provisions.

The Board also considered the respondents' comments regarding Non-Assurance Services (NAS), long association, disclosure of fees for PIEs, and the application of Part 5 to non-professional accountants. However, ultimately, the Board determined that it is in the public interest to maintain international alignment with the revisions made globally by the IESBA.

6. Review and Consideration of comments – ED 02/25 The Use of External Experts

The Board noted Agenda Item 7 *Review and Consideration of comments – ED 02/25 The Use of External Experts*.

The Board considered the outcome of the due process for the Exposure Draft ED 02/25 *Proposed Revisions to APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) Addressing Using the Work of an External Expert*.

The Board considered both the optional transitional relief provisions and the proposal for a temporary transparency disclosure obligation to Those Charged with Governance (TCWG). The Board determined that it is important to disclose to the TCWG the option utilised by the Sustainability Assurance Practitioner. The Board recognised that the disclosure requirement is in the public interest, will provide clarity during the phased adoption process, and will support informed decision-making by those charged with governance of the reporting entities.

7. Proposed combined Amending Standard for APES 110 on Sustainability Assurance and Reporting and the Use of External Experts

The Board noted Agenda Item 8 *Proposed combined Amending Standard for APES 110 on Sustainability Assurance and Reporting and the Use of External Experts*.

The Board approved the Combined Amending Standard to APES 110, the [Amending Standard for Sustainability Assurance and Reporting and the Use of External Experts](#), and the related [Basis for Conclusions](#). The amending standard and Basis for Conclusions will be released in the second week of July 2025.

8. Review of APES 230 Financial Planning Services

The Board noted Agenda Item 9 *Review of APES 230 Financial Planning Services*.

The Board discussed the current legislative reforms in the financial planning industry and agreed that no changes are required to APES 230 *Financial Planning Services* at this point in time.

9. Update on IESBA's consultation on Collective Investment Vehicles and Pension Funds

The Board noted Agenda Item 10 *Update on IESBA's consultation on Collective Investment Vehicles and Pension Funds*.

The Board considered the update on the IESBA's consultation paper on Collective Investment Vehicles (CIVs) and Pension Funds, including the stakeholder engagement performed by APESB Technical Staff to help inform APESB's submission to the IESBA. APESB Technical Staff will prepare a submission for the Board's consideration and approval.

10. Developments in Private Equity Investment in Accounting Firms

The Board noted Agenda Item 11 *Developments in Private Equity Investment in Accounting Firms*.

The Board considered developments in Private Equity Investment (PEI) in accounting firms in the US, UK and Europe. While acknowledging potential financial benefits, the Board also noted the potential challenges and tensions created by PEI between public interest considerations and profit motives in accounting practices.

The IESBA are expected to release a Technical Staff Alert on this topic in July 2025.