

# Meeting Highlights

4 DECEMBER 2025

## 1. Register of Interests

The Board noted Agenda Item 3 *Register of Interests*.

## 2. Update on APESB's Work Program for 2025

The Board noted Agenda Item 4, *Update on APESB's Work Program for 2025*, and the significant number of activities undertaken by APESB in the 2025 calendar year, including the issuance of the ethics and independence standards for sustainability and the tax planning amending standard. APESB also issued two Compiled Codes, five revised pronouncements, two exposure drafts and an updated prohibitions guidance document.

Ethics outreach was undertaken locally and globally through activities in Australia with the professional bodies, IESBA and the FRC UK, and globally through the IESBA Ethics and Independence Conference 2025 in Lisbon, and panels and webinars for the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) and the NZ External Reporting Board (XRB).

## 3. International and other activities

The Board noted Agenda Item 5 *International and Other Activities*, including the release of two Technical Alerts by APESB:

- [The ethical use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) was released in October 2025, and reinforces that Members must continue to meet their ethical obligations under APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) and other APESB pronouncements when using AI.
- [Clarification on the role of the sustainability auditor](#) was released in November 2025 and recommends that the Code be read in conjunction with the FAQs issued by ASIC and the AUASB until the footnotes relating to the role of the sustainability auditor are updated.

## 4. Project update on Conformity with Sustainability Reporting Standards

The Board noted Agenda Item 6 *Project update on Conformity with Sustainability Reporting Standards*.

The Board reviewed the preliminary draft of the proposed APES 206 *Conformity with Sustainability Reporting Standards* (proposed APES 206), including its purpose, scope and proposed requirements. The Board agreed to assess whether the proposed APES 206 should be consolidated into the existing APES 205 *Conformity with Accounting Standards* or issued as a standalone standard, and to provide a project update at the March 2026 Board meeting.

## **5. Update on project to review APESB Pronouncements for Sustainability and AI**

The Board noted Agenda Item 7 *Update on project to review APESB Pronouncements for Sustainability and AI*.

The Board discussed the project update, noting the initial focus on the forensic accounting and valuation services pronouncements. From the stakeholder engagement undertaken so far, stakeholders generally preferred that the impact of Sustainability and AI be covered in guidance materials rather than through amendments to the standards.

The Board agreed to consider expanding the issued Technical Alert on AI to include practical examples. Technical Staff will continue broad stakeholder engagement, with an update to the Board in the first half of 2026.

## **6. Update on proposed revised APESB Guidance on Audit Partner Rotation**

The Board noted Agenda Item 8 *Update on proposed revised APESB Guidance on Audit Partner Rotation*.

The Board considered the update on proposed revisions to the APESB Guidance on Audit Partner Rotation, including the need to reframe the document to focus on the well-established requirements and to address the new long-association considerations for sustainability assurance practitioners. A draft of the revised guidance document will be presented to the Board for its consideration at the March 2026 Board meeting.

## **7. Update on IESBA Firm Culture & Governance Project**

The Board noted Agenda Item 9 *Update on IESBA Firm Culture & Governance Project*.

The Board received a presentation from the APESB CEO on the IESBA's Firm Culture and Governance Project, which outlined the draft IESBA viewpoints and the draft contextual piece that explains the nature and purpose of developing the firm culture and governance framework. The IESBA will consider an update to this project at their December 2025 meeting, including the final draft of the IESBA's eight viewpoints. Further details on the IESBA project can be found on the IESBA website at: <https://www.ethicsboard.org>.

## **8. Update on ASIC Auditor Independence Report**

The Board noted Agenda Item 10 *Update on ASIC Auditor Independence Report*.

The Board considered ASIC's Report 817 on auditors' compliance with their obligations regarding independence and conflicts of interest. The Board noted the ASIC findings and concerns raised regarding the independence matters, and that the observed non-compliance was not due to gaps or issues in the current APESB Pronouncements.

The Board supported the Technical Staff's plan to update the Independence Guide in collaboration with the Professional Accounting Bodies. APESB will continue to monitor developments regarding ASIC's concerns to determine whether additional guidance materials are required to support auditors.