

New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (NZAuASB)**Minutes of the Meeting of the NZAuASB held at 8:00am on Monday, 3 November 2025**

Present: Graeme Pinfold, Chair
Rebecca Palmer, Deputy Chair
Mike Bradbury, Board Member
Todd Beardsworth, Board Member
Darby Healey, Board Member
Richard Kirkland, Board Member
Doug Niven, Board Member
Vasana Vanpraseuth, Board Member

In attendance: Wendy Venter, Chief Executive
Misha Pieters, Director Audit and Assurance
Dr Amelia Sharman, Director Sustainability
Karen Tipper, Technical Director Assurance

PUBLIC SESSION – AGENDA ITEM 2-3

2. Amendment to Assurance on Greenhouse Gas Disclosures 2025

The Board NOTED a verbal update from Dr Amelia Sharman, Director Sustainability from the Sustainability Reporting Board (SRB) meeting on 31 October 2025 where the SRB approved an extension of two years for the reporting and assurance of scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions disclosures adoption provisions within the climate standards. In making this decision, the SRB:

- CONSIDERED the decision by Government to increase the reporting thresholds for climate reporting entities (CREs). There was clear evidence, based on staff analysis of the submissions from CREs that will remain in the regime, to support an extension of two years for reporting and assurance of scope 3 emissions disclosures. This is reflective of the challenges to CREs in preparing high quality disclosures and the need for more guidance. The rationale for the extension is supported given the changes that have been announced.
- NOTED that user engagement is lower than previous engagement. If users had concerns, staff are confident they would have submitted, as they have previously, when there was concern on the delay of reporting on transition planning.
- CONSIDERED the CREs perspective is critical considering the dual purpose of the regime, to provide information for users as well as for CREs.
- NOTED strong calls for international alignment.

The Board NOTED that the proposed amendment to the assurance standard is inter-related to the reporting amendments and that it needs to align to the assurance adoption provision approved by the SRB. The Board DISCUSSED whether the removal of the managed investment schemes from the regime might exacerbate concerns around data quality or the lack of availability of SOC reports from data providers. However, given the strong support from CREs to extend the adoption provisions, there is no reason to consider that we would have received a different response had the XRB consulted following the Government announcement.

The Board DISCUSSED that it is the requirement in primary legislation that determines the scope of the assurance engagement, i.e., the GHG emissions disclosures in climate statements. The amendments to the adoption provisions and to the assurance standard provide transition into the new regime, in light of the practical challenges that stakeholders have raised. Transitional provisions are common when new requirements are introduced and allows time to ensure that the information reported by a CRE is verifiable.

The Board NOTED that the proposed two-year extension would be 6 months different to the assurance of scope 3 GHG emissions required under the Australian regime, which is required in Australia for Group 1 entities for periods starting on or after 1 July 2026.

The Board unanimously agreed with the recommendation to allow an additional two-year optional delay for CREs to exclude scope 3 GHG emissions disclosures from the assurance engagement.

The NZAuASB APPROVED Amendment to Assurance of Greenhouse Gas Disclosures 2025.

The NZAuASB APPROVED the Basis for Conclusions, subject changes to:

- Clarify why the decisions are supported considering recent MBIE decisions, which recognise resource constraints and the impact of the current economic climate.
- Signal that the XRB considers that a two-year extension should be sufficient time such that further extensions are unlikely to be needed. Rather there is a need to focus on support and guidance to support implementation to ensure that the extended deadline is met. Communication should be clear to encourage CREs to continue internal work to get ready for disclosure and assurance even if taking up adoption provisions.
- Reflect that assurance practitioners feedback was that they are able to provide the assurance now and reflect feedback that the assurance work can be done if the information provided is verifiable. The delay is needed to ensure that the necessary quality of information is available to enable the assurance.
- Amendments to for consistency of messaging across the XRB's documents, noting that the assurance lens is needed for the Basis for Conclusions for the amendments to NZ SAE 1.

Final approval of the Basis for Conclusions was delegated to the Chair of the NZAuASB.

The NZAuASB APPROVED the joint signing memorandum, requesting changes be made to reflect the rationale has considered the recent MBIE announcement. Final approval of the joint signing memo was delegated to the Chairs of the SRB and the NZAuASB.

The NZAuASB thanked the staff for their efforts.

3 International Alignment, Sustainability Assurance, Ethics and independence and Using the Work of an External Expert

The Board NOTED a verbal update on the f feedback received in response to the consultation on international alignment. The majority of the feedback supported withdrawing ISAE (NZ) 3410, *Assurance of Greenhouse Gas Statements*. While there were mixed views on the ongoing need for the temporary standard there was support for replacing the option to use ISAE (NZ) 3410 with the option to use ISSA (NZ) 5000, *General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements* within NZ SAE 1, *Assurance of Greenhouse Gas Disclosures*. The analysis and request for approvals of these standards will be brought to the December meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 3 December 2025 in Wellington.

The meeting closed at 8:50 am.