

Project:	Research Centre	Meeting:	AASB October 2026 (M223)
Topic:	Research updates	Agenda Item:	6.1
		Date:	15 October 2026
Contact(s):	Mikhail Bhatia mbhatia@aasb.gov.au Hang Tran htran@aasb.gov.au	Project Priority:	N/A
		Decision-Making:	N/A
		Project Status:	Report to Board

Objectives of this paper

- 1 The objective of this agenda item is to provide the Board with **updates** on the recent key AASB Research Centre activities. It provides an overview of research activities conducted since the Board received updates at the June 2026 meeting.

Structure

- 2 This paper is structured as follows:
 - (a) [Part 1](#): Events:
 - (i) 2026 AASB Research Forum;
 - (ii) 2026 AFAANZ Conference;
 - (b) [Part 2](#): Updates on Post-implementation Review (PIR) projects; and
 - (c) [Part 3](#): Other Engagements.

Part 1: Events

2026 AASB Research Forum

- 3 The 2026 AASB Research Forum is scheduled to be held on 26 and 27 October 2026 in Sydney. The Forum's theme is Technology, Trust and Transformation: Accountability in a Digital Economy.
- 4 Held over two days, the Forum will feature thought-provoking keynote speeches, research presentations and panel discussions exploring emerging issues in technology and corporate reporting. Day 1 will focus on the for-profit sector, while Day 2 will focus on the not-for-profit and public sectors. The agenda for the 2026 AASB Research Forum is included in Appendix A.
- 5 Given the timing of the Research Forum, staff will provide a verbal update on attendance, key themes and other relevant matters, as well as seek feedback from Board members at the meeting.

2026 AFAANZ Conference

- 6 The AASB Chair and staff participated in the 2026 AFAANZ Conference in Melbourne from 5-7 July 2026, presenting at various sessions throughout the conference.

Session	Details
ESG Special Interest Group	AASB Chair and staff presented at the session titled <i>ESG Research, Reporting and Practice: Challenges and Opportunities</i> .
Public Sector and NFP Reporting Special Interest Group	AASB staff presented at the session Beyond Financial Statements: The Expanding Landscape of Public and NFP Reporting.
Financial Reporting Special Interest Group	AASB staff provided an update on financial reporting matters to academics.
AASB Panel Session	AASB Board member Professor Dean Hanlon and AASB staff participated in a panel discussion with academics and practitioners titled <i>Cost-Benefit Analysis in Reporting Requirements</i> . The session discussed how costs and benefits are currently considered in the development and implementation of reporting requirements.

Part 2: Post-implementation Review

- 7 The table below provides a summary of updates on key PIR projects:

Post-implementation Review Projects	Status
<u>ITC 55 Post-implementation Review of AASB 16 Leases (Not-for-profit and public sector)</u>	At the <u>August 2026 meeting</u>, the Board considered whether to retain the accounting policy choice in AASB 16 <i>Leases</i> (paragraphs Aus25.1–Aus25.2) that allows not-for-profit (NFP) public sector lessees to initially measure right-of-use (ROU) assets arising from concessionary leases at either cost or fair value. The Board decided to retain the existing policy choice, noting that it is already available to NFP private sector lessees. In reaching its decision, the Board noted that the IPSASB's requirements for concessionary leases support measurement at fair value but permit measurement at cost when market-based information is not readily available. The Board also considered stakeholder feedback received through ITC 55, which supported retaining the policy choice due to concerns about the costs and practical challenges associated with fair value measurement. The Board also decided to retain the disclosure requirements in paragraphs Aus59.1–Aus59.2 of AASB 16, which provide users of financial statements with additional information about concessionary leases when ROU assets are initially measured at cost. To reflect the Board's decision, a footnote will be added to the Basis for Conclusions on AASB 2022-3 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Illustrative Examples for</i>



Post-implementation Review Projects	Status
	<i>Not-for-Profit Entities accompanying AASB 15</i> , which accompanies AASB 16 and currently notes that the Board had deferred its consideration of the accounting policy choice for NFP public sector lessees. As the existing requirements remain appropriate, no amendments to AASB 16 are required.
<u>ITC 56 Post-implementation Review of Tier 2 and the Removal of Special Purpose Financial Statements for Certain For-Profit Private Sector Entities and Further Update of Tier 2</u>	ITC 56 was issued in September 2025. Comments to the AASB were due by 22 January 2026. At the <u>March 2026 meeting</u> (M219), the Board deliberated and considered the feedback received along with the evidence gathered during the PIR process. The Board concluded that both AASB 1060 and AASB 2020-2 are operating effectively and meeting their intended objectives of balancing user needs and preparer costs while improving consistency, comparability, transparency and enforceability of financial statements. The Feedback Statement and the related AASB Decisions – At a Glance documents are being finalised.
<u>ITC 49 Post-implementation Review of AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantor</u>	In November 2025, the Board completed Step 4 of the PIR process: Consideration of feedback and evidence to determine next steps. The Board decided to undertake standard-setting work as a high-priority project to consider developing amendments to AASB 1059 to address stakeholder concerns. The Board reconfirmed this decision in <u>June 2026</u> as part of its consideration of feedback received in response to the AASB 2027-2031 Agenda Consultation
<u>ITC 58 Post-implementation Review of IFRS 9 and IFRS 7 – Hedge Accounting Requirements</u>	In September 2026, the IASB published a Request for Information <i>Post-implementation Review of IFRS 9 and IFRS 7 Hedge Accounting Requirements</i> with a 120-day comment period (comments are due to the IASB by 26 January 2027). The AASB issued the Australian equivalent of the Request for Information with comments due to the AASB by 9 November 2026. The IASB's Request for Information will also be discussed in Agenda Paper 11.1.

Part 3: Other Engagement

- 8 On June 2026, 125 domestic and international stakeholders attended the AASB Dialogue Series session on *Accounting for grants: What might be missing?* Dr Wei Shi (Deakin University) presented research on grant accounting. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion comprising of Amir Ghandar (CA ANZ), Michelle Harrison (South Australia Department of Treasury and Finance), Fridrich Housa (BDO) and Martin Lawrence (Ownership Matters), which explored how information about grants received can influence investor and stakeholder perceptions and decision making.



- 9 AASB Staff hosted a panel discussion titled *What is Keeping National Standard-Setters Busy? Current Issues in Corporate Reporting* at the 2026 American Accounting Association Conference held in Las Vegas in August 2026. The panel discussed the key issues currently shaping their agendas and how standard-setters rely on research, outreach and stakeholder evidence to support evidence-informed standard-setting and policy discussions.
- 10 Mr Faz Ikram (Curtin University) and Dr Zihan Liu (University of Otago) joined as Visiting Academic Fellows for two weeks in June 2026 and September 2026, respectively. Mr Ikram undertook research related to cryptocurrencies. Dr Liu worked on the Public Sector Climate research project.
- 11 Dr Ozlem Arikan (University of Sheffield) will join as a Visiting Academic Fellow from 27 October 2026. Dr Arikan will undertake research related to carbon credit mechanisms.
- 12 In September 2026, Professor Yannis Tsalavoutas (University of Glasgow) and Dr Fanis Tsoligkas (University of Bath) presented their research on intangibles at the September 2026 IFASS event and to EFRAG. This research commenced as a part of the AASB Research Fellowship Program in collaboration with the Malaysian Accounting Standards Board (MASB).

Question to the Board:

Do Board members have any comments or questions about the research update?

Day 1: Monday, 26 October 2026

Time (AEDT)	Item	Speaker(s)
Session 1		
8:45 am – 9:30 am	Registration	
9:30 am – 9:40am	Introduction and Welcome	Dr Keith Kendall , AASB Chair Representative , University of Sydney
9:40 am – 10:05am	Opening keynote AI and Data in Australia's Interest: Trust and Productivity in a Digital Economy	Dr Ian Oppermann , Commissioner, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
10:05 am – 10:30am	Board member keynote Understanding the role and impacts of AI on accounting standard setting	Professor Dean Hanlon , Board member, AASB & RMIT University
10:30 am – 11:00am	Morning Break	
11:00 am – 12:00pm	Research Session 1 AI, Judgement and Financial Reporting	Research Presenter Professor Roger Simnett , Monash University & UNSW Moderator Toby Langley , Board member, AASB & General Manager, Firmus Panellists Sam Burrett , Director & AI Lead, MinterEllison Amir Ghandar , Reporting & Assurance Leader, CA ANZ Rebekah Morgan , Head of Finance, Kyron Capital Group Doug Niven , Chair & CEO, AUASB
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
Session 2		
1:00 pm – 1:30pm	Academic keynote Reporting for Accountability and Governance in a Digital Economy	Professor John Roberts , University of Sydney
1:30 pm – 2:30pm	Research Session 2 Accounting for the Digital Economy: Data, intangibles and value creation	Research Presenter Professor Michael Davern , University of Melbourne Moderator Moana Overton , Board member, AASB & Partner, Deloitte Panellists Professor Wai Fong Chua , University of Sydney Ian Jedlin , Managing Director, Kroll Paul Shepherd , Partner, PWC Ram Subramanian , Financial Reporting & NFP Lead, CPA Australia
2:30 pm – 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea	



Day 1: Monday, 26 October 2026 continued

Time (AEDT)	Item	Speaker(s)
Session 3		
3:00 pm – 4:00pm	Session 3 Panel Discussion Technology and the future of accounting profession	Moderator Professor Dean Hanlon, Board member, AASB & RMIT University Panellists Professor Martin Bugeja, University of Sydney Amir Ghandar, Reporting & Assurance Leader, CA ANZ Richard Stewart OAM, Independent Member Valuation Committee, Aware Super Ram Subramanian, Financial Reporting & NFP Lead, CPA Australia Associate Professor Amanda White OAM, University of Technology Sydney
4:00 pm – 4:15pm	Closing Remarks	Representative, University of Sydney Dr Keith Kendall, AASB Chair
4:15 pm – 5:15pm	Networking Drinks	



Day 2: Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Time (AEDT)	Item	Speaker(s)
Session 4		
9.00 am – 9.45 am	Registration	
9.45 am – 9.55 am	Introduction and Welcome	Dr Keith Kendall , AASB Chair Representative , University of Sydney
9:55 am – 10:30am	Opening keynote Building Trust and Accountability in the NFP and Public Sectors	Bola Oyetunji , Auditor-General, NSW Audit Office
10:30 am – 11:00am	Morning Break	
11:00 am – 12:00pm	Research Session 4 Digital Transformation, Data and Intangible Resources in the NFP and Public Sectors	Research Presenter Associate Professor Mukesh Garg , Monash University Moderator Patricia Au , International and Public Sector Technical Lead, AASB Panellists Angela Cummine , Principal in Sustainability and Climate Change, Deloitte Greg Hall , Principal Accountant, Queensland Treasury Julian Manch� , Chief Financial Officer, RSPCA NSW Ram Subramanian , Financial Reporting & NFP Lead, CPA Australia
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
Session 5		
1:00 pm – 1:30pm	AASB Update Understanding Tier 3 Reporting	Maggie Man , Senior Manager, AASB
1:30 pm – 2:45pm	Research Session 5 Cybersecurity, Digital Risk and Accountability in the Public and NFP Sectors	Research Presenter 1 Dr Ushi Ghoorah , Western Sydney University Research Presenter 2 Associate Professor Tarek Rana , RMIT University Moderator David Hardidge , Financial Reporting Advisor Panellists Sean Dondas , Policy Advisor, AICD Amir Ghandar , Reporting & Assurance Leader, CA ANZ Professor Katina Michael , University of Sydney Daniel , Australian Signals Directorate
2:45 pm – 2:55pm	Closing Remarks	Representative , University of Sydney Dr Keith Kendall , AASB Chair
2:55 pm – 3:30pm	Networking Drinks	