New Australian accounting pronouncements

For 31 December 2021 year-end reports

New and changed requirements

We provide you an overview of the accounting pronouncements issued *as of 31 December 2021* that:

- **Must** be applied for the first time for 31 December 2021 year-ends
- **May** be applied early for 31 December 2021 year-ends

Implementing new accounting standards often impacts entities beyond their financial reporting function. We hope that this publication will:

- Support you in having better conversations about accounting changes with your stakeholders
- Help you respond in a timely manner to all accounting changes in your next financial report
- Keep you focused on future changes in financial reporting and their impact on your implementation efforts

Accounting change disclosures

Financial reports are required to:

- Present the impact of initial application of new accounting standards applied
- Disclose the possible impact of initial application of forthcoming accounting standards not yet applied, or otherwise indicate the reason for not doing so

However, Tier 2 entities applying either the *Reduced Disclosure Requirements* or *Simplified Disclosures* are not required to disclose the possible impact of accounting pronouncements issued but not yet effective.

Remain alert to further changes

This publication is updated as of 31 December 2021. Any pronouncements issued afterwards (up until the date of authorisation of your financial report) must also be considered. Our *In Balance* publications will keep you informed of further changes.

Contents

Financial instruments

AASB 2020-8 *Amendments to AASs – Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2021

The second phase of the project[1] in addressing the financial reporting effects of Interbank offered rates (IBOR) reform has been recently completed. This phase focuses on issues that might affect financial reporting upon replacement of existing interest rate benchmarks, and amends the requirements in AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*, AASB 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*, AASB 4 *Insurance Contracts* and AASB 16 *Leases*.

The objective of the amendments is to minimise financial reporting consequences of a change in benchmark interest rates that Australian Accounting Standards may otherwise require, such as the derecognition or remeasurement of financial instruments, and the discontinuation of hedge accounting.

Provided that the contractual interest rate will be substantially similar before and after the replacement, the amendments:

- Require changes to future cash flows that are directly required by the IBOR reform to be treated as if they were changes to a floating interest rate. Applying this expedient would not affect the carrying amount of the financial instrument. It also relieves entities of the need to assess whether modification or derecognition accounting applies under AASB 9 and AASB 139.
- Require changes to lease payments that are directly caused by the IBOR reform to be accounted for as a remeasurement of the lease liability using a revised discount rate – being the original discount rate adjusted only for changes caused by the IBOR reform. A corresponding adjustment to the right-of-use-asset follows. This expedient exempts entities from remeasuring the lease liability using a newly determined discount rate otherwise required for lease modifications

For IBOR reform, entities could alter hedge designation and documentation without discontinuing hedge accounting, provided that the hedge continues to meet other hedge accounting criteria. Permitted changes include redefining the hedged risk and redefining the description of the hedging instruments and/or the hedged items.

Insurers who are still applying AASB 139 would also be subject to the same mandatory reliefs.

Entities are required to provide disclosures that help readers understand the effect of the IBOR reform on the financial statements and risk management strategies, including the progress in completing the transition to alternative benchmark rates and how such transition is being managed.

These amendments apply retrospectively. However, restatement of prior periods is not required but permitted only if such restatement is possible without the use of hindsight. Earlier application of the amendments is permitted.

Resources

Applying IFRS: IBOR Reform (Updated May 2021)

IFRS Developments Issue 174: IASB completes its IBOR reform programme (September 2020)

[1] The first phase of the IBOR reform project dealt with urgent issues affecting financial reporting before the replacement of existing interest rate benchmarks. AASB 2019-3 amended AASB 7, AASB 9 and AASB 139, providing mandatory temporary relief enabling hedge accounting to continue before existing interest rate benchmarks were replaced with alternative "nearly risk-free" benchmarks. The effective date of AASB2019-3 was annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020 and is no longer included in this publication.

Financial instruments

AASB 2020-3 *Amendment to AASB 9 - Fees in the '10 per cent' Test for Derecognition of Financial Liabilities (Part of Annual Improvements 2018-2020 Cycle)*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022

Under AASB 9, an existing financial liability that has been modified or exchanged is considered extinguished when the contractual terms of the new liability are substantially different, measured by the '10 per cent' test. That is, when the present value of the cash flows under the new terms, including any fees paid or received, is at least 10 per cent different from the present value of the remaining cash flows of the original financial liability.

The amendment to AASB 9 clarifies that fees included in the 10 per cent test are limited to fees paid or received between the borrower and the lender, including amounts paid or received by them on the other's behalf. When assessing the significance of any difference between the new and old contractual terms, only the changes in contractual cash flows between the lender and borrower are relevant. Consequently, fees incurred on the modification or exchange of a financial liability paid to third parties are excluded from the 10 per cent test.

For example, valuation and legal fees paid by the borrower to third- party consultants, will not be included in the 10 per cent test. However, if the modification is not determined to be an extinguishment, such costs would be capitalised and subsequently amortised with a revision to the effective interest rate.

These amendments are applied prospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

Group accounts

AASB 2014-10 *Amendments to AASs - Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022[2]

The amendments to AASB 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* and AASB 128 *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures* clarify that a full gain or loss is recognised when a transfer to an associate or joint venture involves a business as defined in AASB 3. Any gain or loss resulting from the sale or contribution of assets that does not constitute a business, however, is recognised only to the extent of unrelated investors' interests in the associate or joint venture.

When applying this amendment, the definition of a business as recently revised by AASB 2018-6 *Amendments to AASs - Definition of a Business* [3]must be applied.

These amendments are applied prospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

[2] AASB 2017-5 *Amendments to AASs - Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections* deferred the effective date of AASB 2014-10 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 instead of 1 January 2018.

[3] AASB 2018-6 was effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020.

Income taxes

AASB 2021-5 *Amendments to AASs – Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023

AASB 112 *Income Taxes* requires entities to account for income tax consequences when economic transactions take place, and not at the time when income tax payments or recoveries are made. Accounting for such tax consequences, means entities need to consider the differences between tax rules and accounting standards. These differences could either be:

- Permanent – e.g., when tax rules do not allow a certain expense to **ever** be deducted

  Or
- Temporary – e.g., when tax rules treat an item of income as taxable in **a period later than** when included in the accounting profit

Deferred taxes representing amounts of income tax payable or recoverable in the future must be recognised on temporary differences unless prohibited by AASB 112 in certain circumstances. One of these circumstances, known as the initial recognition exception, applies when a transaction affects neither accounting profit nor taxable profit, and is not a business combination. Views differ about applying this exception to transactions that, on initial recognition, create both an asset and liability (and could give rise to equal amounts of taxable and deductible temporary differences) such as:

- Recognising a right-of-use asset and a lease liability when commencing a lease

- Recognising decommissioning, restoration and similar liabilities with corresponding amounts included in the cost of the related asset

Some entities have previously recognised deferred tax consequences for these types of transactions, having concluded that they did not qualify for the initial recognition exception. The amendments to AASB 112 clarify that the exception would not normally apply. That is, the scope of this exception has been narrowed such that it no longer applies to transactions that, on initial recognition, give rise to equal amounts of taxable and deductible temporary differences.

The amendments apply from the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented to:

- All transactions occurring on or after that date
- Deferred tax balances, arising from leases and decommissioning, restoration and similar liabilities, existing at that date

The cumulative effect of initial application is recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings or other component of equity, as appropriate.

Earlier application of the amendments is permitted.

Resource

IFRS Developments Issue 191: IASB clarifies deferred tax accounting for leases and decommissioning obligations (May 2021)

Insurance contracts

AASB 17 *Insurance Contracts*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023[4]

AASB 17 replaces AASB 4, AASB 1023 *General Insurance Contracts* and AASB 1038 *Life Insurance Contracts* for for-profit entities. AASB 17 applies to all types of insurance contracts (i.e., life, non-life, direct insurance and reinsurance), regardless of the type of entity that issues them, as well as to certain guarantees and financial instruments with discretionary participation features.

In contrast to the requirements in AASB 4, which are largely based on grandfathering previous local accounting policies, AASB 17 provides a comprehensive accounting model for insurance contracts. The core of AASB 17 is the general model, supplemented by:

- A specific adaptation for contracts with direct participation features (the variable fee approach)
- A simplified approach (the premium allocation approach) mainly for short-duration contracts

The main features of the new accounting model for insurance contracts are as follows:

- The measurement of the present value of future cash flows, incorporating an explicit risk adjustment, remeasured every reporting period (the fulfilment cash flows)
- The concept of a Contractual Service Margin (CSM), representing the unearned profit on the insurance contracts to be recognised in profit or loss over the service period
- Certain changes in the expected present value of future cash flows are adjusted against the CSM and thereby recognised in profit or loss over the remaining service period
- The effect of changes in discount rates are reported in either profit or loss or other comprehensive income, determined by an accounting policy choice
- The presentation of insurance revenue and insurance service expenses in the statement of comprehensive income based on the concept of services provided during the period
- Amounts that are paid to a policyholder in all circumstances, regardless of whether an insured event happens (non-distinct investment components) are not presented in the income statement, but are recognised directly on the balance sheet

Entities are required to adopt AASB 17 using the full retrospective approach, however, if this is impracticable for a group of insurance contracts, either the modified retrospective approach or fair value approach may be used.

Earlier application is permitted, provided that the entity also applies AASB 9 on or before the date it first applies AASB 17.

AASB 17 does not apply to superannuation entities applying AASB 1056 *Superannuation Entities* and not-for-profit public sector entities. The AASB is assessing the applicability of AASB 17 to not-for-profit public sector entities; in November 2017, the AASB issued Discussion Paper *Australian-specific Insurance Issues – Regulatory Disclosures and Public Sector Entities*.

Resource

Applying IFRS 17: A closer look at the new Insurance Contracts Standard (June 2021)

[4] AASB 2020-5 *Amendments to AASs – Insurance Contracts* (see next page) deferred the effective date of AASB 17 by two years to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.

Insurance contracts

AASB 2020-5 *Amendments to AASs - Insurance Contracts*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2021

To aid implementation of the new insurance standard, the following key amendments were introduced:

- Deferring the effective date of AASB 17 for insurers by two years to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023
- AASB 4 was likewise amended to extend the expiry date of the temporary exemption from applying AASB 9 to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. This extension allows for continuing use of AASB 139 alongside AASB 4, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038 until AASB 17 becomes effective
- Excluding from the scope of AASB 17 certain credit card contracts that provide insurance coverage for purchases made using the credit card
- Providing an election to apply either AASB 17 or AASB 9 to contracts such as loans that include an agreement by the lender to compensate the borrower - by waiving some or all the payments due from the borrower - if a specified uncertain event occurs (for example, if the borrower dies)
- Requiring insurance acquisition cash flows (such as commissions paid to brokers) to be allocated to related expected contract renewals, recognising those cash flows as an asset until contract renewal takes place
- Requiring the expected profit on insurance contracts to be recognised in a pattern acknowledging both insurance coverage and any included investment-return or investment-related services
- Allowing the use of the risk mitigation accounting option when reinsurance contracts or non-derivative financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss, are used to mitigate the effects of the time value of money and other financial risks
- Reducing a potential accounting mismatch by requiring the holder of a reinsurance contract to recognise a gain on that contract when it recognises a loss on initial recognition of an onerous group of insurance contracts covered by the reinsurance contract, or on the addition of further onerous contracts to that group
- Simplifying the presentation of insurance and reinsurance contract assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position using broader portfolios of insurance contracts rather than narrower groups of insurance contracts
- Introducing additional transition relief mechanisms

The AASB has proposed [5] an optional classification overlay to address accounting mismatches that can arise due to differences in transition requirements for AASB 9 and AASB 17[6]. This allows classifying financial assets (related to insurance contracts) in the comparative periods based on a reasonable expectation of how they would be classified on initial application of AASB 9.

Resources

Insurance Accounting Alert (June 2020)

Insurance Accounting Alert (July 2021)

Insurance Accounting Alert (October 2021)

[5] *ED 313-Application of AASB 17 and AASB 9 – Comparative Information*

[6] At its October 2021 meeting, the IASB agreed to finalise a similar proposal with certain amendments. The AASB is expected to do likewise in January 2022.

Leases

AASB 2020-4 *Amendments to AASs - COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 June 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many lessors have granted rent concessions to lessees that impact lease payments. Rent concessions granted by a lessor can take many forms, including any combination of:

- A rent payment holiday
- A reduction in lease payments for a period of time
- A deferral of payments to a later date

  Or
- Other arrangements providing rent relief

A concession might also include a change to the lease term.

From the lessee's perspective, a change in lease payments that **was** contemplated in the original terms and conditions of the lease would **not** be accounted for as a lease modification. For example, it might be treated as a variable lease payment, with the effect of the rent concession recognised in profit or loss. In contrast, accounting for a lease modification generally requires a lessee to remeasure the lease liability by discounting the revised lease payments using a new discount rate.

Concerns were raised that assessing whether COVID-19 rent concessions are lease modifications could be challenging, compounding the AASB 16 implementation work lessees have recently undertaken. Consequently, AASB 16 was amended, allowing lessees to **not** account for rent concessions as lease modifications, provided certain conditions are met.

The practical expedient applies only to rent concessions occurring as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and only if all of the following conditions are met:

- The change in lease payments results in revised consideration for the lease that is substantially the same as, or less than, the consideration for the lease immediately preceding the change
- Any reduction in lease payments affects only payments originally due on or before 30 June 2022[7]
- There is no substantive change to other terms and conditions of the lease

Once elected, the practical expedient is required to be applied consistently to all lease contracts with similar characteristics and in similar circumstances.

The amendment to AASB 16 is applied retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initial application recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings or other component of equity, as appropriate, at the beginning of the annual reporting period in which the lessee first applies the amendment.

Similar relief was not provided to lessors for several reasons, including the fact that AASB 16 did not introduce significant changes to lessor accounting.

Resources

Applying IFRS: Accounting for COVID-19 related rent concessions (updated April 2021)

IFRS Developments Issue 170: IASB amends IFRS 16 Leases for COVID-19 related rent concessions (May 2020)

[7] AASB 2021-3 *Amendments to AASs - COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions beyond 30 June 2021* extends the application period by one year to include lease payments originally due on or before 30 June 2022. See next page for further discussion.

Leases

AASB 2021-3 *Amendments to AASs – COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions beyond 30 June 2021*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2021

In light of many other challenges lessees faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, AASB 16 was amended to extend the practical expedient to **not** account for COVID-19-related rent concessions as lease modifications by one year. Provided all other conditions[8] are met, this expedient can be applied to rent concessions that reduce only lease payments originally due on or before 30 June 2022.

A lessee that has **previously** established an accounting policy that applied such practical expedient would be required to apply the extended scope of the practical expedient to eligible contracts with similar characteristics and in similar circumstances.

A lessee that did not have eligible lease concessions previously can still decide whether to apply the practical expedient for the first time.

The amendment to AASB 16 is applied retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initial application recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings or other component of equity, as appropriate, at the beginning of the annual reporting period in which the lessee first applies the amendment. Earlier application of the amendments is permitted.

Resource

IFRS Developments Issue 189: IASB extends relief for COVID-19 related rent concessions (April 2021)

[8] See discussion under AASB 2020-4 for the list of conditions that are required to be met before a lessee can apply the practical expedient.

Simplified Disclosures

AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities*[9]

AASB 2020-2 *Amendments to AASs - Removal of Special Purpose Financial Statements for Certain For-Profit Private Sector Entities*

AASB 2021-1 *Amendments to AASs - Transition to Tier 2: Simplified Disclosures for Not-for-Profit Entities*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2021

To reduce the cost of preparing general purpose financial statements while maintaining their usefulness, certain entities[10] are permitted to apply reduced disclosure requirements. Those requirements are currently identified in each applicable Australian Accounting Standard.

The AASB developed AASB 1060, a new simplified disclosure standard based on *IFRS for Small and Medium-sized Entities*, to replace the reduced disclosure requirements. These simplified disclosure requirements are now collated in a single disclosure standard.

Furthermore, changes were introduced such that the concept of special purpose financial statements has been removed for certain for-profit entities. Consequently, such entities previously not required to prepare general purpose financial statements will be required to do so. AASB 2020-2 makes consequential amendments to existing Australian Accounting Standards to emphasise this new requirement for the preparation of general purpose financial statements.

Certain transition reliefs are available to qualified entities that choose to early adopt the simplified disclosure requirements.

Resources

For-profit entities moving from SPFS to GPFS (April 2021)

Good Group (Australian SDS) Pty Ltd illustrative financial statements - Simplified Disclosures (for early adoption - December 2020 and June 2021)

The time has come - Changes to Australian financial reporting (April 2020)

[9] Under AASB 2020-7 *Amendments to AASs - COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions: Tier 2 Disclosures*, Tier 2 entities applying *Simplified Disclosures* that availed of the practical expedient for COVID-19 related rent concessions as provided in AASB 2020-4 [and extended by AASB 2021-3] are required to make the same disclosures as for Tier 1 entities complying with the full disclosure requirements of AASB 16. Under AASB 2020-9 *Amendments to AASs - Tier 2 Disclosures: Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Phase 2) and Other Amendments*, Tier 2 entities are exempted from disclosing the quantitative impact of the initial adoption of AASB 2020-8.

[10] Under AASB 1053 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards*, the reduced disclosure requirements apply to the following entities:

(a) for-profit private sector entities that do not have public accountability;
(b) not-for-profit private sector entities; and
(c) public sector entities, other than the Australian Government and State, Territory and Local Governments.

Other topics

AASB 2020-3 *Amendments to AASB 3 - Reference to the Conceptual Framework*[11]

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022

When the revised Conceptual Framework was issued in 2018, its application to AASB 3 was excluded, requiring entities to apply the definitions of an asset and a liability (and supporting concepts) in the previous Framework.

This exemption responded to concerns that, in some cases, the revised definitions might change which assets and liabilities qualify for recognition in a business combination. As a consequence, post-acquisition accounting required by other standards could lead to immediate derecognition of such assets or liabilities, causing 'day 2 gains or losses' to arise, which do not depict economic reality.

The IASB has now assessed the impact of the revised definitions of assets and liabilities in the *Conceptual Framework* to business combinations, concluding that the problem of day 2 gains or losses would be significant only for liabilities that an acquirer accounts for after acquisition by applying IAS 37 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets* or IFRIC 21 *Levies*.

The IASB updated IFRS 3 in May 2020 for the revised definitions of an asset and a liability and excluded the application of the *Conceptual Framework* to liabilities and contingent liabilities within the scope of IAS 37 or IFRIC 21.

The AASB released the equivalent amendments to AASB 3 in June 2020.

These amendments are applied prospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

Resources

IFRS Developments Issue 169: Amendments to IFRS 3 - Reference to the Conceptual Framework (May 2020)

Applying IFRS: IASB issues revised Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (April 2018)

[11] *The Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework) describes the objective of, and the concepts for, general purpose financial reporting. The Conceptual Framework is not a standard, and none of the concepts override those in any standard or any requirements in a standard.*

Other topics

AASB 2020-1 *Amendments to AASs – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023[12]

A liability is classified as current if the entity has no right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period. The AASB recently issued amendments to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* to clarify the requirements for classifying liabilities as current or non-current. Specifically:

- The amendments specify that the conditions which exist at the end of the reporting period are those which will be used to determine if a right to defer settlement of a liability exists.
- Management intention or expectation does not affect classification of liabilities.
- In cases where an instrument with a conversion option is classified as a liability, the transfer of equity instruments would constitute settlement of the liability for the purpose of classifying it as current or non-current.

These amendments are applied retrospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

A consequence of the first amendment is that a liability would be classified as current if its repayment conditions failed their test at reporting date, despite those conditions only becoming effective in the 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

In response to this possible outcome, the AASB has proposed[13] further amendments:

- Specifying that conditions with which an entity must comply after the reporting period do not affect the classification at the reporting date
- Adding presentation and disclosure requirements for non-current liabilities subject to conditions in the next 12 months
- Clarifying specific situations in which an entity does not have a right to defer settlements for at least 12 months after the reporting date
- Deferring the effective date of original amendments to no earlier than 1 January 2024

Resources

IFRS Developments Issue 159: Amendments to classification of liabilities as current or non-current (Updated July 2020)

IFRS Developments Issue 198: classification of non-current liabilities with covenants-proposed amendments (November 2021)

[12] AASB 2020-6 *Amendments to AASs – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date* pushed back the effective date of AASB 2020-1 by one year to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.

[13] *ED 316: Non-current Liabilities with Covenants*

Other topics

AASB 2021-2[14] *Amendments to AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting and AASB Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements*[15] *- Disclosure of Accounting Policies*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023

The amendments to AASB 101 require disclosure of **material**[16] accounting policy information, instead of **significant** accounting policies. Unlike 'material', 'significant' was not defined in Australian Accounting Standards. Leveraging the existing definition of material with additional guidance is expected to help preparers make more effective accounting policy disclosures. The guidance illustrates circumstances where an entity is likely to consider accounting policy information to be material. Entity-specific accounting policy information is emphasised as being more useful than generic information or summaries of the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.[17]

The amendments to AASB Practice Statement 2 supplement the amendments to AASB 101 by illustrating how the four-step materiality process can identify material accounting policy information.

Earlier application of the amendments is permitted.

Resource

IFRS Developments Issue 187: The Disclosure Initiative - IASB amends the accounting policy requirements (February 2021)

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[14] Refer to the Catalogue for the title and topics covered by this standard.
[15] A Practice Statement is a non-mandatory guidance developed by the AASB.
[16] AASB 2018-7 *Amendments to AASs - Definition of Material* amended the definition of material to: 'Information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity.'
[17] AASB 7 was amended to highlight that information about the measurement basis for financial instruments is expected to be material accounting policy information. AASB 134 was updated to state that a complete set of financial statements as defined by AASB 101 include material accounting policy information.

Other topics

AASB 2020-3 *Amendments to AASB 116 - Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022

Under AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*, net proceeds from selling items produced while constructing an item of property, plant and equipment[18] are deducted from the cost of the asset. The IASB's research indicated practical diversity in interpreting this requirement. As a result, AASB 116 was amended to prohibit an entity from deducting from the cost of an item of property, plant and equipment, the proceeds from selling items produced before that asset is available for use. An entity is also required to measure production costs of the sold items by applying AASB 102 *Inventories*. Proceeds from selling any such items, and the cost of those items, are recognised in profit or loss in accordance with applicable standards.

These amendments are applied retrospectively, but only to items of property, plant and equipment that are 'ready to use' on or after the beginning of the earliest period presented in the financial statements in which the entity first applies the amendments – 'ready to use' meaning the asset is in the location and condition necessary to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Earlier application is permitted.

Resource

IFRS Developments Issue 155: Revenue earned before an asset is ready for its intended use (November 2019)

AASB 2020-3 *Amendment to AASB 141 - Taxation in Fair Value Measurements (Part of Annual Improvements 2018-2020 Cycle)*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022

When using a present value technique to measure fair values of assets within the scope of AASB 141 *Agriculture*, taxation cash flows are not included. While AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* does not prescribe an entity to use a particular present value technique[19] to measure fair value, it requires assumptions about cash flows and discount rates to be internally consistent. Depending on facts and circumstances, an entity applying a present value technique might measure fair value by discounting after-tax cash flows using an after-tax discount rate or pre-tax cash flows at a pre-tax discount rate.

The AASB has removed from AASB 141 the requirement to exclude taxation cash flows when measuring fair value. Such removal aligns with the principles of fair value measurement in AASB 13.

The amendment is applied prospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

[18] An item of property, plant and equipment under construction may be capable of producing saleable items (e.g., samples produced when testing whether the asset is functioning properly) while not yet capable of operating in the manner intended by management (i.e., before depreciation of the asset begins).

[19] Present value techniques differ in how they adjust for risk and in the type of cash flows they use.

Other topics

AASB 2020-3 *Amendment to AASB 1 – Subsidiary as a First-time Adopter (Part of Annual Improvements 2018-2020 Cycle)*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022

Under AASB 121 *The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates*, an entity is required to determine its own functional currency, being the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates. Where a group contains individual entities with different functional currencies, the group's consolidated financial statements are presented in a common currency through a translation process prescribed by AASB 121. Exchange differences arising from translating the results and financial position of the individual entities or foreign operations[20], commonly known as 'cumulative translation differences', are accumulated in a separate component of equity.

A subsidiary that adopts Australian Accounting Standards later than its parent is required to measure cumulative translation differences at its date of transition to Australian Accounting Standards either at zero or on a retrospective basis under AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Accounting Standards*. Consequently, the subsidiary might have been required to keep two parallel sets of accounting records for cumulative translation differences based on different dates of transition to Australian Accounting Standards.

Acknowledging that some entities find this requirement burdensome, the AASB simplified the application of AASB 1, permitting a subsidiary to measure cumulative translation differences for all foreign operations at the carrying amount that would be included in the parent's consolidated financial statements, based on the parent's date of transition to Australian Accounting Standards, excluding the impact of any adjustments made for consolidation procedures and for the business combination in which the parent acquired the subsidiary.

This exemption is also available to an associate or joint venture adopting Australian Accounting Standards later than its investor.

Earlier application is permitted.

[20] A foreign operation is an entity that is a subsidiary, associate, joint arrangement or branch of a reporting entity, the activities of which are based or conducted in a country or currency other than those of the reporting entity.

Other topics

AASB 2020-3 *Amendments to AASB 137 - Onerous Contracts - Cost of Fulfilling a Contract*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022

AASB 137 defines an onerous contract as a contract in which the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract exceed the economic benefits expected to be received under it. Unavoidable cost is the lower of the cost of fulfilling the contract and any compensation or penalties arising from failure to fulfil it

AASB 137 does not specify which costs to include in determining the cost of fulfilling a contract. Consequently, AASB 137 was amended to clarify that when assessing whether a contract is onerous, the cost of fulfilling the contract comprises all costs that relate directly to the contract, which includes both the:

- Incremental costs of fulfilling that contract (e.g., materials and labour)
- An allocation of other costs that relate directly to fulfilling contracts (e.g., depreciation of property, plant and equipment)

An entity shall apply these amendments to contracts for which it has not yet fulfilled all its obligations at the beginning of the annual reporting period in which it first applies the amendments (the date of initial application). Comparative information is not restated. Instead, the cumulative effect of initially applying the amendments is recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings or other component of equity, as appropriate, at the date of initial application. Earlier application of the amendments is permitted.

Other topics

AASB 2021-2 *Amendments to AASB 108 – Definition of Accounting Estimates*

Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023

An accounting policy may require items in the financial statements to be measured using information that is either directly observable, or estimated. Accounting estimates use inputs and measurement techniques that require judgements and assumptions based on the latest available, reliable information.

The amendments to AASB 108 clarify the definition of an accounting estimate, making it easier to differentiate it from an accounting policy. The distinction is necessary as their treatment and disclosure requirements are different. Critically, a change in an accounting estimate is applied prospectively whereas a change in an accounting policy is generally applied retrospectively[21].

The new definition provides that 'Accounting estimates are monetary amounts in financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty.' The amendments explain that a change in an input or a measurement technique used to develop an accounting estimate is considered a change in an accounting estimate unless it is correcting a prior period error.

- For example, a change in a valuation technique used to measure the fair value of an investment property from market approach to income approach would be treated as a change in estimate rather than a change in accounting policy.
- In contrast, a change in an underlying measurement objective, such as changing the measurement basis of investment property from cost to fair value, would be treated as a change in accounting policy.

The amendments did not change the existing treatment for a situation where it is difficult to distinguish a change in an accounting policy from a change in an accounting estimate. In such a case, the change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

The amendments are applied prospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

Resource

IFRS Developments Issue 186: The IASB defines accounting estimates (February 2021)

[21] A change in accounting policy is applied retrospectively except in the following circumstances:
- It is impracticable to do so.
- When an entity changes an accounting policy upon initial application of a new standard and there are specific transition provisions that do not permit retrospective application of the new standard.
- When an entity changes its policy to revalue assets in accordance with AASB 116 or AASB 138 *Intangible Assets*.

Interpretations and agenda decisions

During calendar year 2021, the IFRS Interpretations committee (IFRIC) issued no interpretations. However, it issued several agenda decisions on matters brought to its attention. Whilst IFRIC agenda decisions do not add or change requirements in AASB standards, entities are required to consider explanatory material in an applicable agenda decision when applying AASB standards.

Entities need to consider the impact of each agenda decision, based on their circumstances, and possibly adopt a change in policy. Agenda decisions do not have commencement dates and so are effective when issued. However, entities are entitled to sufficient time[22] to assess impacts and make required changes. ASIC media releases/ Q&As may also provide useful guidance on expectations about implementation timelines.

Below we summarise all IFRIC agenda decisions published during the period from 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2021.

Supply Chain Financing Arrangements– Reverse Factoring – December 2020

The IFRIC discussed the presentation of reverse factoring arrangements[23] in financial statements.

The IFRIC noted that an entity should:

- Present reverse factoring liabilities separately from trade payables when their size, nature or function makes separate presentation relevant. For example, a need for additional security and substantially different settlement terms might indicate their nature is different from trade payables.
- Consider derecognition guidance for trade payables by applying AASB 9 requirements.
- Classify cash outflows as operating or financing based on the nature of the liability.

  For example, if the liability is presented as a trade payable, the related cash flow is operating; if the liability is presented as a borrowing the related cash outflow is financing.

Resource

IFRS Developments issue 182 - Agenda decision on reverse factoring (January 2021)

Configuration or Customisation Costs in a Cloud Computing Arrangement – March 2021

The IFRIC discussed accounting for costs of configuring or customising a supplier's application software in a Software as a Service (SaaS) arrangement.[24]

The committee noted that configuration and customisation costs cannot be capitalised when the customer does not control the software or when the configuration/ customisation does not create an asset separate from the software. Such costs need to be expensed as and when incurred.

This agenda decision has an impact not only on costs in current and future periods but could also impact previously incurred costs that should, or should not have been capitalised.

Resource

Applying IFRS – Accounting for cloud computing costs (July 2021)

Attributing Benefits to Periods of Service – May 2021

The IFRIC discussed how an entity attributes retirement benefits to periods of service for a defined benefit plan when the entitlement is subject to a minimum retirement age, and the benefit amount is capped by reference to a maximum period of service. Due to these constraints, services rendered before reaching a

[22] The IASB advised that "sufficient time" will depend on the particular facts and circumstances. Refer IFRS feature article: Agenda decisions - time is of the essence

[23] In a reverse factoring arrangement, typically a financial institution pays an entity's suppliers and the entity then settles the amount with the financial institution instead of the supplier.

[24] Configuration involves the setting of various 'flags' or 'switches' within the software, or defining parameters, to set up the software's code to function in a specified way. Customisation involves modifying the software to change or create more functionalities within the software.

particular age do not affect the amounts of the benefits to be received on retirement.

Under IAS 19 *Employee Benefits*, benefits should be attributed to the periods of service commencing from the day when employee's services first lead to the benefit entitlement. This period should end when further service will not lead to a material further benefit.

Consequently, the Committee concluded that the entity attributes no retirement benefit for periods before reaching the entitlement age and after reaching the retirement age.

Hedging Variability in Cash Flows due to Real Interest Rates- May 2021

The IFRIC discussed whether a hedge of the variability in cash flows arising from changes in a real interest rate could be accounted for as a cash flow hedge.

In this situation, an entity with a floating rate instrument enters into an inflation swap[25]. While not contractually specified, a nominal interest rate economically includes both a real interest rate and an inflation component.

An entity may designate an item in its entirety, or a component of an item, as a hedged item. A risk component may be designated if the risk component is separately identifiable and reliably measurable. However, the IFRIC observed that inflation risk cannot be considered as separately identifiable and reliably measurable unless it is contractually specified. To support its eligibility as a separate risk component, the real interest rate must represent an identifiable pricing element in setting the floating benchmark interest rate.

For the fact pattern discussed, the IFRIC concluded that there is no exposure to variability in cash flows that is attributable to changes in the real interest rate. As a result, the real interest rate does not meet the requirements in AASB 9 to be designated as an eligible hedged item.

Costs Necessary to Sell Inventories - June 2021

The IFRIC discussed what costs need to be included when estimating net realisable value of inventories.

In this discussion, the IFRIC noted that AASB 102 requirements do not permit an entity to limit costs necessary to sell inventories to only those that are incremental. There is a range of possibilities beyond the incremental cost approach: from direct costs at the point of sale (which might include, for example, a portion of the cost of internal sales staff or the cost of a special promotion campaign) to full costs (which might include costs such as depreciation or amortisation).

Therefore, an entity uses its judgment to determine which costs are necessary to complete the inventory and make the sale, considering specific facts and circumstances, including the nature of the inventory.

Resource

IFRS Developments issue 193 - Costs necessary to sell inventories (July 2021)

Preparation of Financial Statements when an Entity is No Longer a Going Concern- June 2021

The IFRIC discussed the accounting by an entity that is no longer a going concern. The IFRIC noted the following:

- When an entity is no longer a going concern, it cannot prepare financial statements (including those for prior periods that have not yet been authorised for issue) on a going concern basis.
- The IFRIC did not address whether such an entity restates comparative information, previously prepared on a going concern basis, to reflect the basis of accounting used for the current period's financial statements. No

[25] Which swaps the variable interest cash flows of the floating rate instrument for variable cash flows based on an inflation index.

diversity in the application of IFRS Standards with respect to this issue was noted.

Non-refundable Value Added Tax on Lease Payments- October 2021

The IFRIC discussed lessee accounting for any non-refundable value added tax (VAT) charged on lease payments. The question is whether the lessee includes non-refundable VAT as part of the lease payments of a lease.

Outreach conducted by the IFRIC and comment letters on the tentative agenda decision provided limited evidence as to whether the issue is material or receiving diverse accounting treatment. For this reason, the IFRIC provided no guidance.

Accounting for Warrants that are Classified as Financial Liabilities on Initial Recognition- October 2021

The IFRIC discussed warrants that give the holder a right to buy a fixed number of the issuer's own equity instruments for an exercise price that will be fixed at a future date. Such warrants are initially classified by the issuer as a financial liability as the fixed-to fixed condition[26] is not met.

The question was whether the warrants should be reclassified as equity once the exercise price is fixed, as the fixed-for-fixed condition would at that stage be met.

The IFRIC noted that AASB 132 contains no general requirement for reclassifying financial liabilities or equity instruments when their contractual terms are unchanged.

However, the issue has been identified as a practice issues to be considered in Financial Instruments with Characteristics of Equity (FICE) project.

[26] Derivative financial instruments settled only by the issuer exchanging a fixed amount of cash (or another financial assets) for a fixed number of own equity instruments are classified as equity.

Catalogue of new accounting pronouncements issued as of 31 December 2021

New pronouncements[27] that must be applied for 31 December 2021 year-ends	Effective date[28]	Page
AASB 2020-5 Amendments to AASs - Insurance Contracts	1 January 2021	8
AASB 2020-8 Amendments to AASs - Interest Rate Benchmark Reform - Phase 2	1 January 2021	3
AASB 2020-4 Amendments to AASs - COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions	1 June 2020	9

New pronouncements[29] that may be applied for 31 December 2021 year-ends	Effective date[30]	Page
AASB 2021-3 Amendments to AASs - COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions beyond 30 June 2021	1 April 2021	10
AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities	1 July 2021	11
AASB 2020-2 Amendments to AASs - Removal of Special Purpose Financial Statements for Certain For-Profit Private Sector Entities	1 July 2021	11
AASB 2020-7 Amendments to AASs - COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions: Tier 2 Disclosures	1 July 2021	11
AASB 2020-9 Amendments to AASs - Tier 2 Disclosures: Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Phase 2) and Other Amendments	1 July 2021	11
AASB 2021-1 Amendments to AASs - Transition to Tier 2: Simplified Disclosures for Not-for-Profit Entities	1 July 2021	11
AASB 2020-3 *Amendments to AASs - Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments*	1 January 2022	
► Amendment to AASB 1, *Subsidiary as a First-time Adopter*		16
► Amendments to AASB 3, *Reference to the Conceptual Framework*		12
► Amendment to AASB 9, *Fees in the '10 per cent' Test for Derecognition of Financial Liabilities*		4
► Amendments to AASB 116, *Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use*		15
► Amendments to AASB 137, *Onerous Contracts - Cost of Fulfilling a Contract*		17
► Amendment to AASB 141, *Taxation in Fair Value Measurements*		15
AASB 2014-10 *Amendments to AASs - Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture*	1 January 2022	5
AASB 17 *Insurance Contracts*	1 January 2023	7
AASB 2020-1 *Amendments to AASs - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*	1 January 2023	13
AASB 2021-2 *Amendments to AASs - Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates*	1 January 2023	
► Amendments to AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 134 and AASB Practice Statement 2		14
► Amendments to AASB 108		18
AASB 2021-5 Amendments *to AASs - Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction*	1 January 2023	6

[27] For full access to Australian Accounting Standards please visit https://www.aasb.gov.au/.
[28] Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after this date

[29] For full access to Australian Accounting Standards please visit https://www.aasb.gov.au/.
[30] Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after this date

Catalogue of IFRIC agenda decisions

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