

Compiled AASB Standard

AASB 3

Business Combinations

FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT (NFP) ENTITIES ONLY

This compiled Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2013 but before 1 January 2014 that end on or after 20 December 2013. Early application is permitted. It incorporates relevant amendments made up to and including 20 December 2013.

Prepared on 30 May 2014 by the staff of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.



Australian Government

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Australian Accounting Standard AASB 3 *Business Combinations* (as amended) is set out in paragraphs 1 – 67 and Appendices A – B. All the paragraphs have equal authority. Paragraphs in **bold type** state the main principles. Terms defined in this Standard are in *italics* the first time they appear in the Standard. AASB 3 is to be read in the context of other Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 1048 *Interpretation of Standards*, which identifies the Australian Accounting Interpretations. In the absence of explicit guidance, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* provides a basis for selecting and applying accounting policies.

COMPILATION DETAILS

Accounting Standard AASB 3 *Business Combinations* as amended

This compiled Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2013 but before 1 January 2014 that end on or after 20 December 2013 for not-for-profit entities. It takes into account amendments up to and including 20 December 2013 and was prepared on 30 May 2014 by the staff of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

This compilation is not a separate Accounting Standard made by the AASB. Instead, it is a representation of AASB 3 (March 2008) as amended by other Accounting Standards, which are listed in the Table below.

Table of Standards

Standard	Date made	Application date (annual reporting periods ... on or after ...)	Application, saving or transitional provisions
AASB 3	6 Mar 2008	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jul 2009	see (a) below
AASB 2008-11	13 Nov 2008	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jul 2009	see (b) below
AASB 2010-3	23 Jun 2010	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jul 2010	see (c) below
AASB 2010-2	30 Jun 2010	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jul 2013	see (d) below
AASB 2010-5	27 Oct 2010	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jan 2011	see (e) below
AASB 2010-7	6 Dec 2010	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jan 2015	not compiled*
AASB 2011-7	29 Aug 2011	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jan 2014	not compiled*
AASB 2011-8	2 Sep 2011	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jan 2013	see (f) below
AASB 2012-1	21 Mar 2012	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jul 2013	see (g) below
AASB 2013-5	14 Aug 2013	<i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jan 2014	not compiled*
AASB 2013-9	20 Dec 2013	Pt A <i>(ending)</i> 20 Dec 2013 Pt B <i>(beginning)</i> 1 Jan 2014	see (h) below not compiled*

* The amendments made by this Standard are not included in this compilation, which presents the principal Standard as applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2013 but before 1 January 2014 that end on or after 20 December 2013 for not-for-profit entities.

(a) For-profit entities may elect to apply this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 30 June 2007 but before 1 July 2009, provided that AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements* (March 2008) is also applied to such periods. This early application provision was subsequently amended by AASB 2008-11.

- (b) Entities may elect to apply this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 30 June 2007 but before 1 July 2009, provided that AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements* (March 2008) is also applied to such periods.
- (c) Entities may elect to apply the amendments to AASB 3 in this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 30 June 2007 but before 1 July 2010.
- (d) Entities may elect to apply this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009 but before 1 July 2013, provided that AASB 1053 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* is also applied to such periods.
- (e) Entities may elect to apply this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 30 June 2007 but before 1 January 2011.
- (f) AASB 2011-8 has been amended by AASB 2011-10 (made 5 September 2011) and AASB 2012-6 (made 10 September 2012).
Entities may elect to apply the amendments to AASB 3 in this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 30 June 2007 but before 1 January 2013, provided that AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* is also applied to such periods.
- (g) Entities may elect to apply this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009 but before 1 July 2013, provided that AASB 1053 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards*, AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* and AASB 2011-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13* are also applied to such periods.
- (h) Entities may elect to apply this Standard to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005 that end before 20 December 2013, provided that AASB CF 2013-1 *Amendments to the Australian Conceptual Framework* and AASB 1048 *Interpretation of Standards* (December 2013) are also applied to the such periods.

Table of Amendments

Paragraph affected	How affected	By ... [paragraph]
Aus1.3	amended	AASB 2008-11 [5]
Aus1.5	amended	AASB 2008-11 [6]
Aus1.6	added	AASB 2008-11 [7]
Aus1.7 (preceding heading)	added	AASB 2010-2 [16]
Aus1.7	added amended	AASB 2010-2 [16] AASB 2012-1 [5]
Aus1.8-Aus1.9	added	AASB 2010-2 [16]
11	amended	AASB 2013-9A [22]
19	amended	AASB 2010-3 [6]
20	amended	AASB 2011-8 [18]
29	amended	AASB 2011-8 [18]
30 (and preceding heading)	amended	AASB 2010-3 [6]
33	amended	AASB 2011-8 [18]

Paragraph affected	How affected	By ... [paragraph]
47	amended	AASB 2011-8 [18]
Aus63.1-Aus63.9 (and preceding heading)	added	AASB 2008-11 [8]
64B-64C	added	AASB 2010-3 [6]
64F	added	AASB 2011-8 [19]
65A-65E	added	AASB 2010-3 [6]
Appendix A, definition of 'fair value'	amended	AASB 2011-8 [12]
B22	amended	AASB 2011-8 [20]
B40	amended	AASB 2011-8 [20]
B43-B46	amended	AASB 2011-8 [20]
B49	amended	AASB 2011-8 [20]
B56	amended	AASB 2010-3 [7]
B62A (and preceding heading)	added	AASB 2010-3 [7]
B62B	added amended	AASB 2010-3 [7] AASB 2010-5 [16]
B64	amended	AASB 2011-8 [20]
RDRB65.1	added	AASB 2010-2 [16]
RDRB67.1	added	AASB 2010-2 [16]

Basis for Conclusions on AASB 2008-11

The Basis for Conclusions accompanying AASB 2008-11 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities* is attached to this compiled Standard.

COMPARISON WITH IFRS 3

AASB 3 and IFRS 3

AASB 3 *Business Combinations* as amended incorporates IFRS 3 *Business Combinations* as issued and amended by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). Paragraphs that have been added to this Standard (and do not appear in the text of IFRS 3) are identified with the prefix “Aus” or “RDR”, followed by the number of the preceding IASB paragraph and decimal numbering.

Compliance with IFRS 3

For-profit entities that comply with AASB 3 as amended will simultaneously be in compliance with IFRS 3 as amended.

Not-for-profit entities using the added “Aus” paragraphs in the Standard that specifically apply to not-for-profit entities may not be simultaneously complying with IFRS 3. Whether a not-for-profit entity will be in compliance with IFRS 3 will depend on whether the “Aus” paragraphs provide additional guidance for not-for-profit entities or contain requirements that are inconsistent with the corresponding IASB Standard and will be applied by the not-for-profit entity.

Entities preparing general purpose financial statements under Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements will not be in compliance with IFRS 3.

ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 3

The Australian Accounting Standards Board made Accounting Standard AASB 3 *Business Combinations* under section 334 of the *Corporations Act 2001* on 6 March 2008.

This compiled version of AASB 3 applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2013 but before 1 January 2014 that end on or after 20 December 2013 for not-for-profit entities. It incorporates relevant amendments contained in other AASB Standards made by the AASB up to and including 20 December 2013 (see Compilation Details).

ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 3

BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

Objective

- 1 The objective of this Standard is to improve the relevance, reliability and comparability of the information that a reporting entity provides in its financial statements about a *business combination* and its effects. To accomplish that, this Standard establishes principles and requirements for how the *acquirer*:
 - (a) recognises and measures in its financial statements the *identifiable* assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any *non-controlling interest* in the *acquiree*;
 - (b) recognises and measures the *goodwill* acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase; and
 - (c) determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination.

Application

Aus1.1 This Standard applies to:

- (a) **each entity that is required to prepare financial reports in accordance with Part 2M.3 of the Corporations Act and that is a reporting entity;**

- (b) **general purpose financial statements of each other reporting entity; and**
- (c) **financial statements that are, or are held out to be, general purpose financial statements.**

Aus1.2 This Standard applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2009.

[Note: For application dates of paragraphs changed or added by an amending Standard, see Compilation Details.]

Aus1.3 This Standard may be applied from the beginning of an annual reporting period that begins on or after 30 June 2007 but before 1 July 2009. If an entity applies this Standard to an annual reporting period beginning before 1 July 2009, it shall disclose that fact and apply AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements* (as amended in March 2008) at the same time.

Aus1.4 The requirements specified in this Standard apply to the financial report where information resulting from their application is material in accordance with AASB 1031 *Materiality*.

Aus1.5 When applied or operative, this Standard supersedes:

- (a) AASB 3 *Business Combinations* (July 2004, as amended);
- (b) Interpretation 1001 *Consolidated Financial Reports in relation to Pre-Date-of-Transition Dual Listed Company Arrangements* issued in July 2005;
- (c) Interpretation 1002 *Post-Date-of-Transition Stapling Arrangements* issued in December 2005; and
- (d) Interpretation 1013 *Consolidated Financial Reports in relation to Pre-Date-of-Transition Stapling Arrangements* issued in April 2005.

Aus1.6 Where assets and liabilities are transferred to a local government from another local government at no cost, or for nominal consideration, pursuant to legislation, ministerial directive or other externally imposed requirement, paragraphs Aus63.1 to Aus63.9 shall be applied.

Reduced disclosure requirements

- Aus1.7** The following do not apply to entities preparing general purpose financial statements under Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements:
- (a) paragraphs 59-63, Aus63.6-Aus63.9, B64(d), B64(e), B64(h), B64(k), B64(l), B64(m), B64(n)(ii), B64(q), B65, B66, B67(a)-(c) and B67(e);
 - (b) in the heading before paragraph B64, the text “(application of paragraphs 59 and 61)”;
 - (c) in paragraph B64, the text “To meet the objective in paragraph 59,”;
 - (d) in paragraph B64(j), the sentence “If a contingent liability ... liability cannot be measured reliably.”; and
 - (e) in paragraph B67, the text “To meet the objective in paragraph 61,”.

Entities applying Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements may elect to comply with some or all of these excluded requirements.

- Aus1.8** The requirements that do not apply to entities preparing general purpose financial statements under Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements are identified in this Standard by shading of the relevant text, except for comparative disclosures subject to RDR paragraphs.

- Aus1.9** **RDR paragraphs in this Standard apply only to entities preparing general purpose financial statements under Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.**

Scope

- 2 This Standard applies to a transaction or other event that meets the definition of a business combination. This Standard does not apply to:
- (a) the formation of a joint venture.
 - (b) the acquisition of an asset or a group of assets that does not constitute a *business*. In such cases the acquirer shall identify

and recognise the individual identifiable assets acquired (including those assets that meet the definition of, and recognition criteria for, *intangible assets* in AASB 138 *Intangible Assets*) and liabilities assumed. The cost of the group shall be allocated to the individual identifiable assets and liabilities on the basis of their relative *fair values* at the date of purchase. Such a transaction or event does not give rise to goodwill.

- (c) a combination of entities or businesses under common control (paragraphs B1-B4 provide related application guidance).

Aus 2.1 A restructure of administrative arrangements, as defined in Appendix A of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, is outside the scope of this Standard. AASB 1004 specifies requirements for restructures of administrative arrangements.¹

Identifying a business combination

- 3 An entity shall determine whether a transaction or other event is a business combination by applying the definition in this Standard, which requires that the assets acquired and liabilities assumed constitute a business. If the assets acquired are not a business, the reporting entity shall account for the transaction or other event as an asset acquisition. Paragraphs B5-B12 provide guidance on identifying a business combination and the definition of a business.**

The acquisition method

- 4 An entity shall account for each business combination by applying the acquisition method.**
- 5 Applying the acquisition method requires:
 - (a) identifying the acquirer;
 - (b) determining the *acquisition date*;
 - (c) recognising and measuring the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree; and

¹ The definition of, and requirements for, a restructure of administrative arrangements are included in the version of AASB 1004 issued in December 2007.

- (d) recognising and measuring goodwill or a gain from a bargain purchase.

Identifying the acquirer

- 6 For each business combination, one of the combining entities shall be identified as the acquirer.**
- 7 The guidance in AASB 127 shall be used to identify the acquirer – the entity that obtains *control* of the acquiree. If a business combination has occurred but applying the guidance in AASB 127 does not clearly indicate which of the combining entities is the acquirer, the factors in paragraphs B14-B18 shall be considered in making that determination.

Determining the acquisition date

- 8 The acquirer shall identify the acquisition date, which is the date on which it obtains control of the acquiree.**
- 9 The date on which the acquirer obtains control of the acquiree is generally the date on which the acquirer legally transfers the consideration, acquires the assets and assumes the liabilities of the acquiree – the closing date. However, the acquirer might obtain control on a date that is either earlier or later than the closing date. For example, the acquisition date precedes the closing date if a written agreement provides that the acquirer obtains control of the acquiree on a date before the closing date. An acquirer shall consider all pertinent facts and circumstances in identifying the acquisition date.

Recognising and measuring the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree

Recognition principle

- 10 As of the acquisition date, the acquirer shall recognise, separately from goodwill, the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree. Recognition of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed is subject to the conditions specified in paragraphs 11 and 12.**

Recognition conditions

- 11 To qualify for recognition as part of applying the acquisition method, the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed must meet the definitions of assets and liabilities in the *Framework for the*

Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (as identified in AASB 1048 *Interpretation of Standards*)² at the acquisition date. For example, costs the acquirer expects but is not obliged to incur in the future to effect its plan to exit an activity of an acquiree or to terminate the employment of or relocate an acquiree's employees are not liabilities at the acquisition date. Therefore, the acquirer does not recognise those costs as part of applying the acquisition method. Instead, the acquirer recognises those costs in its post-combination financial statements in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards.

- 12 In addition, to qualify for recognition as part of applying the acquisition method, the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed must be part of what the acquirer and the acquiree (or its former *owners*) exchanged in the business combination transaction rather than the result of separate transactions. The acquirer shall apply the guidance in paragraphs 51-53 to determine which assets acquired or liabilities assumed are part of the exchange for the acquiree and which, if any, are the result of separate transactions to be accounted for in accordance with their nature and the applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
- 13 The acquirer's application of the recognition principle and conditions may result in recognising some assets and liabilities that the acquiree had not previously recognised as assets and liabilities in its financial statements. For example, the acquirer recognises the acquired identifiable intangible assets, such as a brand name, a patent or a customer relationship, that the acquiree did not recognise as assets in its financial statements because it developed them internally and charged the related costs to expense.
- 14 Paragraphs B28-B40 provide guidance on recognising operating leases and intangible assets. Paragraphs 22-28 specify the types of identifiable assets and liabilities that include items for which this Standard provides limited exceptions to the recognition principle and conditions.

Classifying or designating identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination

- 15 At the acquisition date, the acquirer shall classify or designate the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed as necessary to apply other Australian Accounting Standards subsequently. The acquirer shall make those classifications or designations on the**

² In December 2013 the AASB amended the *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements*.

basis of the contractual terms, economic conditions, its operating or accounting policies and other pertinent conditions as they exist at the acquisition date.

- 16 In some situations, Australian Accounting Standards provide for different accounting depending on how an entity classifies or designates a particular asset or liability. Examples of classifications or designations that the acquirer shall make on the basis of the pertinent conditions as they exist at the acquisition date include but are not limited to:
- (a) classification of particular financial assets and liabilities as a financial asset or liability at fair value through profit or loss, or as a financial asset available for sale or held to maturity, in accordance with AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*;
 - (b) designation of a derivative instrument as a hedging instrument in accordance with AASB 139; and
 - (c) assessment of whether an embedded derivative should be separated from the host contract in accordance with AASB 139 (which is a matter of ‘classification’ as this Standard uses that term).
- 17 This Standard provides two exceptions to the principle in paragraph 15:
- (a) classification of a lease contract as either an operating lease or a finance lease in accordance with AASB 117 *Leases*; and
 - (b) classification of a contract as an insurance contract in accordance with AASB 4 *Insurance Contracts*.

The acquirer shall classify those contracts on the basis of the contractual terms and other factors at the inception of the contract (or, if the terms of the contract have been modified in a manner that would change its classification, at the date of that modification, which might be the acquisition date).

Measurement principle

- 18 The acquirer shall measure the identifiable assets acquired and the liabilities assumed at their acquisition-date fair values.**
- 19 For each business combination, the acquirer shall measure at the acquisition date components of non-controlling interests in the

acquiree that are present ownership interests and entitle their holders to a proportionate share of the entity's net assets in the event of liquidation at either:

- (a) fair value; or
- (b) the present ownership instruments' proportionate share in the recognised amounts of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.

All other components of non-controlling interests shall be measured at their acquisition-date fair values, unless another measurement basis is required by Australian Accounting Standards.

- 20 Paragraphs 24-31 specify the types of identifiable assets and liabilities that include items for which this Standard provides limited exceptions to the measurement principle.

Exceptions to the recognition or measurement principles

- 21 This Standard provides limited exceptions to its recognition and measurement principles. Paragraphs 22-31 specify both the particular items for which exceptions are provided and the nature of those exceptions. The acquirer shall account for those items by applying the requirements in paragraphs 22-31, which will result in some items being:

- (a) recognised either by applying recognition conditions in addition to those in paragraphs 11 and 12 or by applying the requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards, with results that differ from applying the recognition principle and conditions.
- (b) measured at an amount other than their acquisition-date fair values.

Exception to the recognition principle

Contingent liabilities

- 22 AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets* defines a contingent liability as:

- (a) a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or

- (b) a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because:
 - (i) it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
 - (ii) the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

23 The requirements in AASB 137 do not apply in determining which contingent liabilities to recognise as of the acquisition date. Instead, the acquirer shall recognise as of the acquisition date a contingent liability assumed in a business combination if it is a present obligation that arises from past events and its fair value can be measured reliably. Therefore, contrary to AASB 137, the acquirer recognises a contingent liability assumed in a business combination at the acquisition date even if it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Paragraph 56 provides guidance on the subsequent accounting for contingent liabilities.

Exceptions to both the recognition and measurement principles

Income taxes

- 24 The acquirer shall recognise and measure a deferred tax asset or liability arising from the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination in accordance with AASB 112 *Income Taxes*.
- 25 The acquirer shall account for the potential tax effects of temporary differences and carryforwards of an acquiree that exist at the acquisition date or arise as a result of the acquisition in accordance with AASB 112.

Employee benefits

- 26 The acquirer shall recognise and measure a liability (or asset, if any) related to the acquiree's employee benefit arrangements in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*.

Indemnification assets

- 27 The seller in a business combination may contractually indemnify the acquirer for the outcome of a contingency or uncertainty related to all or part of a specific asset or liability. For example, the seller may indemnify the acquirer against losses above a specified amount on a liability arising from a particular contingency; in other words, the seller

will guarantee that the acquirer's liability will not exceed a specified amount. As a result, the acquirer obtains an indemnification asset. The acquirer shall recognise an indemnification asset at the same time that it recognises the indemnified item measured on the same basis as the indemnified item, subject to the need for a valuation allowance for uncollectible amounts. Therefore, if the indemnification relates to an asset or a liability that is recognised at the acquisition date and measured at its acquisition-date fair value, the acquirer shall recognise the indemnification asset at the acquisition date measured at its acquisition-date fair value. For an indemnification asset measured at fair value, the effects of uncertainty about future cash flows because of collectibility considerations are included in the fair value measure and a separate valuation allowance is not necessary (paragraph B41 provides related application guidance).

- 28 In some circumstances, the indemnification may relate to an asset or a liability that is an exception to the recognition or measurement principles. For example, an indemnification may relate to a contingent liability that is not recognised at the acquisition date because its fair value is not reliably measurable at that date. Alternatively, an indemnification may relate to an asset or a liability, for example, one that results from an employee benefit, that is measured on a basis other than acquisition-date fair value. In those circumstances, the indemnification asset shall be recognised and measured using assumptions consistent with those used to measure the indemnified item, subject to management's assessment of the collectibility of the indemnification asset and any contractual limitations on the indemnified amount. Paragraph 57 provides guidance on the subsequent accounting for an indemnification asset.

Exceptions to the measurement principle

Reacquired rights

- 29 The acquirer shall measure the value of a reacquired right recognised as an intangible asset on the basis of the remaining contractual term of the related contract regardless of whether market participants would consider potential contractual renewals when measuring its fair value. Paragraphs B35 and B36 provide related application guidance.

Share-based payment transactions

- 30 The acquirer shall measure a liability or an equity instrument related to share-based payment transactions of the acquiree or the replacement of an acquiree's share-based payment transactions with share-based payment transactions of the acquirer in accordance with the method in AASB 2 *Share-based Payment* at the acquisition date. (This Standard

refers to the result of that method as the ‘market-based measure’ of the share-based payment transaction.)

Assets held for sale

- 31 The acquirer shall measure an acquired non-current asset (or disposal group) that is classified as held for sale at the acquisition date in accordance with AASB 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations* at fair value less costs to sell in accordance with paragraphs 15-18 of that Standard.

Recognising and measuring goodwill or a gain from a bargain purchase

- 32 **The acquirer shall recognise goodwill as of the acquisition date measured as the excess of (a) over (b) below:**

- (a) **the aggregate of:**
- (i) **the consideration transferred measured in accordance with this Standard, which generally requires acquisition-date fair value (see paragraph 37);**
 - (ii) **the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree measured in accordance with this Standard; and**
 - (iii) **in a business combination achieved in stages (see paragraphs 41 and 42), the acquisition-date fair value of the acquirer’s previously held *equity interest* in the acquiree.**
- (b) **the net of the acquisition-date amounts of the identifiable assets acquired and the liabilities assumed measured in accordance with this Standard.**

- 33 In a business combination in which the acquirer and the acquiree (or its former owners) exchange only equity interests, the acquisition-date fair value of the acquiree’s equity interests may be more reliably measurable than the acquisition-date fair value of the acquirer’s equity interests. If so, the acquirer shall determine the amount of goodwill by using the acquisition-date fair value of the acquiree’s equity interests instead of the acquisition-date fair value of the equity interests transferred. To determine the amount of goodwill in a business combination in which no consideration is transferred, the acquirer shall use the acquisition-date fair value of the acquirer’s interest in the

acquiree in place of the acquisition-date fair value of the consideration transferred (paragraph 32(a)(i)). Paragraphs B46-B49 provide related application guidance.

Bargain purchases

- 34 Occasionally, an acquirer will make a bargain purchase, which is a business combination in which the amount in paragraph 32(b) exceeds the aggregate of the amounts specified in paragraph 32(a). If that excess remains after applying the requirements in paragraph 36, the acquirer shall recognise the resulting gain in profit or loss on the acquisition date. The gain shall be attributed to the acquirer.
- 35 A bargain purchase might happen, for example, in a business combination that is a forced sale in which the seller is acting under compulsion. However, the recognition or measurement exceptions for particular items discussed in paragraphs 22-31 may also result in recognising a gain (or change the amount of a recognised gain) on a bargain purchase.
- 36 Before recognising a gain on a bargain purchase, the acquirer shall reassess whether it has correctly identified all of the assets acquired and all of the liabilities assumed and shall recognise any additional assets or liabilities that are identified in that review. The acquirer shall then review the procedures used to measure the amounts this Standard requires to be recognised at the acquisition date for all of the following:
- (a) the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed;
 - (b) the non-controlling interest in the acquiree, if any;
 - (c) for a business combination achieved in stages, the acquirer's previously held equity interest in the acquiree; and
 - (d) the consideration transferred.

The objective of the review is to ensure that the measurements appropriately reflect consideration of all available information as of the acquisition date.

Consideration transferred

- 37 The consideration transferred in a business combination shall be measured at fair value, which shall be calculated as the sum of the acquisition-date fair values of the assets transferred by the acquirer, the liabilities incurred by the acquirer to former owners of the acquiree and

the equity interests issued by the acquirer. (However, any portion of the acquirer's share-based payment awards exchanged for awards held by the acquiree's employees that is included in consideration transferred in the business combination shall be measured in accordance with paragraph 30 rather than at fair value.) Examples of potential forms of consideration include cash, other assets, a business or a subsidiary of the acquirer, *contingent consideration*, ordinary or preference equity instruments, options, warrants and member interests of *mutual entities*.

- 38 The consideration transferred may include assets or liabilities of the acquirer that have carrying amounts that differ from their fair values at the acquisition date (for example, non-monetary assets or a business of the acquirer). If so, the acquirer shall remeasure the transferred assets or liabilities to their fair values as of the acquisition date and recognise the resulting gains or losses, if any, in profit or loss. However, sometimes the transferred assets or liabilities remain within the combined entity after the business combination (for example, because the assets or liabilities were transferred to the acquiree rather than to its former owners), and the acquirer therefore retains control of them. In that situation, the acquirer shall measure those assets and liabilities at their carrying amounts immediately before the acquisition date and shall not recognise a gain or loss in profit or loss on assets or liabilities it controls both before and after the business combination.

Contingent consideration

- 39 The consideration the acquirer transfers in exchange for the acquiree includes any asset or liability resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement (see paragraph 37). The acquirer shall recognise the acquisition-date fair value of contingent consideration as part of the consideration transferred in exchange for the acquiree.
- 40 The acquirer shall classify an obligation to pay contingent consideration as a liability or as equity on the basis of the definitions of an equity instrument and a financial liability in paragraph 11 of AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*, or other applicable Australian Accounting Standards. The acquirer shall classify as an asset a right to the return of previously transferred consideration if specified conditions are met. Paragraph 58 provides guidance on the subsequent accounting for contingent consideration.

Additional guidance for applying the acquisition method to particular types of business combinations

A business combination achieved in stages

- 41 An acquirer sometimes obtains control of an acquiree in which it held an equity interest immediately before the acquisition date. For example, on 31 December 20X1, Entity A holds a 35 per cent non-controlling equity interest in Entity B. On that date, Entity A purchases an additional 40 per cent interest in Entity B, which gives it control of Entity B. This Standard refers to such a transaction as a business combination achieved in stages, sometimes also referred to as a step acquisition.
- 42 In a business combination achieved in stages, the acquirer shall remeasure its previously held equity interest in the acquiree at its acquisition-date fair value and recognise the resulting gain or loss, if any, in profit or loss. In prior reporting periods, the acquirer may have recognised changes in the value of its equity interest in the acquiree in other comprehensive income (for example, because the investment was classified as available for sale). If so, the amount that was recognised in other comprehensive income shall be recognised on the same basis as would be required if the acquirer had disposed directly of the previously held equity interest.

A business combination achieved without the transfer of consideration

- 43 An acquirer sometimes obtains control of an acquiree without transferring consideration. The acquisition method of accounting for a business combination applies to those combinations. Such circumstances include:
- (a) The acquiree repurchases a sufficient number of its own shares for an existing investor (the acquirer) to obtain control.
 - (b) Minority veto rights lapse that previously kept the acquirer from controlling an acquiree in which the acquirer held the majority voting rights.
 - (c) The acquirer and acquiree agree to combine their businesses by contract alone. The acquirer transfers no consideration in exchange for control of an acquiree and holds no equity interests in the acquiree, either on the acquisition date or previously. Examples of business combinations achieved by contract alone include bringing two businesses together in a stapling arrangement or forming a dual listed corporation.

- 44 In a business combination achieved by contract alone, the acquirer shall attribute to the owners of the acquiree the amount of the acquiree's net assets recognised in accordance with this Standard. In other words, the equity interests in the acquiree held by parties other than the acquirer are a non-controlling interest in the acquirer's post-combination financial statements even if the result is that all of the equity interests in the acquiree are attributed to the non-controlling interest.

Measurement period

- 45 **If the initial accounting for a business combination is incomplete by the end of the reporting period in which the combination occurs, the acquirer shall report in its financial statements provisional amounts for the items for which the accounting is incomplete. During the measurement period, the acquirer shall retrospectively adjust the provisional amounts recognised at the acquisition date to reflect new information obtained about facts and circumstances that existed as of the acquisition date and, if known, would have affected the measurement of the amounts recognised as of that date. During the measurement period, the acquirer shall also recognise additional assets or liabilities if new information is obtained about facts and circumstances that existed as of the acquisition date and, if known, would have resulted in the recognition of those assets and liabilities as of that date. The measurement period ends as soon as the acquirer receives the information it was seeking about facts and circumstances that existed as of the acquisition date or learns that more information is not obtainable. However, the measurement period shall not exceed one year from the acquisition date.**
- 46 The measurement period is the period after the acquisition date during which the acquirer may adjust the provisional amounts recognised for a business combination. The measurement period provides the acquirer with a reasonable time to obtain the information necessary to identify and measure the following as of the acquisition date in accordance with the requirements of this Standard:
- (a) the identifiable assets acquired, liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree;
 - (b) the consideration transferred for the acquiree (or the other amount used in measuring goodwill);
 - (c) in a business combination achieved in stages, the equity interest in the acquiree previously held by the acquirer; and

(d) the resulting goodwill or gain on a bargain purchase.

- 47 The acquirer shall consider all pertinent factors in determining whether information obtained after the acquisition date should result in an adjustment to the provisional amounts recognised or whether that information results from events that occurred after the acquisition date. Pertinent factors include the date when additional information is obtained and whether the acquirer can identify a reason for a change to provisional amounts. Information that is obtained shortly after the acquisition date is more likely to reflect circumstances that existed at the acquisition date than is information obtained several months later. For example, unless an intervening event that changed its fair value can be identified, the sale of an asset to a third party shortly after the acquisition date for an amount that differs significantly from its provisional fair value measured at that date is likely to indicate an error in the provisional amount.
- 48 The acquirer recognises an increase (decrease) in the provisional amount recognised for an identifiable asset (liability) by means of a decrease (increase) in goodwill. However, new information obtained during the measurement period may sometimes result in an adjustment to the provisional amount of more than one asset or liability. For example, the acquirer might have assumed a liability to pay damages related to an accident in one of the acquiree's facilities, part or all of which are covered by the acquiree's liability insurance policy. If the acquirer obtains new information during the measurement period about the acquisition-date fair value of that liability, the adjustment to goodwill resulting from a change to the provisional amount recognised for the liability would be offset (in whole or in part) by a corresponding adjustment to goodwill resulting from a change to the provisional amount recognised for the claim receivable from the insurer.
- 49 During the measurement period, the acquirer shall recognise adjustments to the provisional amounts as if the accounting for the business combination had been completed at the acquisition date. Thus, the acquirer shall revise comparative information for prior periods presented in financial statements as needed, including making any change in depreciation, amortisation or other income effects recognised in completing the initial accounting.
- 50 After the measurement period ends, the acquirer shall revise the accounting for a business combination only to correct an error in accordance with AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*.

Determining what is part of the business combination transaction

- 51 The acquirer and the acquiree may have a pre-existing relationship or other arrangement before negotiations for the business combination began, or they may enter into an arrangement during the negotiations that is separate from the business combination. In either situation, the acquirer shall identify any amounts that are not part of what the acquirer and the acquiree (or its former owners) exchanged in the business combination, i.e. amounts that are not part of the exchange for the acquiree. The acquirer shall recognise as part of applying the acquisition method only the consideration transferred for the acquiree and the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the exchange for the acquiree. Separate transactions shall be accounted for in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards.**
- 52 A transaction entered into by or on behalf of the acquirer or primarily for the benefit of the acquirer or the combined entity, rather than primarily for the benefit of the acquiree (or its former owners) before the combination, is likely to be a separate transaction. The following are examples of separate transactions that are not to be included in applying the acquisition method:
- (a) a transaction that in effect settles pre-existing relationships between the acquirer and acquiree;
 - (b) a transaction that remunerates employees or former owners of the acquiree for future services; and
 - (c) a transaction that reimburses the acquiree or its former owners for paying the acquirer's acquisition-related costs.

Paragraphs B50-B62 provide related application guidance.

Acquisition-related costs

- 53 Acquisition-related costs are costs the acquirer incurs to effect a business combination. Those costs include finder's fees; advisory, legal, accounting, valuation and other professional or consulting fees; general administrative costs, including the costs of maintaining an internal acquisitions department; and costs of registering and issuing debt and equity securities. The acquirer shall account for acquisition-related costs as expenses in the periods in which the costs are incurred and the services are received, with one exception. The costs to issue

debt or equity securities shall be recognised in accordance with AASB 132 and AASB 139.

Subsequent measurement and accounting

54 In general, an acquirer shall subsequently measure and account for assets acquired, liabilities assumed or incurred and equity instruments issued in a business combination in accordance with other applicable Australian Accounting Standards for those items, depending on their nature. However, this Standard provides guidance on subsequently measuring and accounting for the following assets acquired, liabilities assumed or incurred and equity instruments issued in a business combination:

- (a) reacquired rights;**
- (b) contingent liabilities recognised as of the acquisition date;**
- (c) indemnification assets; and**
- (d) contingent consideration.**

Paragraph B63 provides related application guidance.

Reacquired rights

55 A reacquired right recognised as an intangible asset shall be amortised over the remaining contractual period of the contract in which the right was granted. An acquirer that subsequently sells a reacquired right to a third party shall include the carrying amount of the intangible asset in determining the gain or loss on the sale.

Contingent liabilities

56 After initial recognition and until the liability is settled, cancelled or expires, the acquirer shall measure a contingent liability recognised in a business combination at the higher of:

- (a) the amount that would be recognised in accordance with AASB 137; and
- (b) the amount initially recognised less, if appropriate, cumulative amortisation recognised in accordance with AASB 118 *Revenue*.

This requirement does not apply to contracts accounted for in accordance with AASB 139.

Indemnification assets

- 57 At the end of each subsequent reporting period, the acquirer shall measure an indemnification asset that was recognised at the acquisition date on the same basis as the indemnified liability or asset, subject to any contractual limitations on its amount and, for an indemnification asset that is not subsequently measured at its fair value, management's assessment of the collectibility of the indemnification asset. The acquirer shall derecognise the indemnification asset only when it collects the asset, sells it or otherwise loses the right to it.

Contingent consideration

- 58 Some changes in the fair value of contingent consideration that the acquirer recognises after the acquisition date may be the result of additional information that the acquirer obtained after that date about facts and circumstances that existed at the acquisition date. Such changes are measurement period adjustments in accordance with paragraphs 45-49. However, changes resulting from events after the acquisition date, such as meeting an earnings target, reaching a specified share price or reaching a milestone on a research and development project, are not measurement period adjustments. The acquirer shall account for changes in the fair value of contingent consideration that are not measurement period adjustments as follows:
- (a) Contingent consideration classified as equity shall not be remeasured and its subsequent settlement shall be accounted for within equity.
 - (b) Contingent consideration classified as an asset or a liability that:
 - (i) is a financial instrument and is within the scope of AASB 139 shall be measured at fair value, with any resulting gain or loss recognised either in profit or loss or in other comprehensive income in accordance with that Standard.
 - (ii) is not within the scope of AASB 139 shall be accounted for in accordance with AASB 137 or other Australian Accounting Standards as appropriate.

Disclosures

- 59 The acquirer shall disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effect of a business combination that occurs either:**

- (a) **during the current reporting period; or**
 - (b) **after the end of the reporting period but before the financial statements are authorised for issue.**
- 60 To meet the objective in paragraph 59, the acquirer shall disclose the information specified in paragraphs B64-B66.
- 61 The acquirer shall disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to evaluate the financial effects of adjustments recognised in the current reporting period that relate to business combinations that occurred in the period or previous reporting periods.**
- 62 To meet the objective in paragraph 61, the acquirer shall disclose the information specified in paragraph B67.
- 63 If the specific disclosures required by this and other Australian Accounting Standards do not meet the objectives set out in paragraphs 59 and 61, the acquirer shall disclose whatever additional information is necessary to meet those objectives.

Restructures of local governments

- Aus63.1 Where assets and liabilities are transferred to a local government from another local government at no cost, or for nominal consideration, pursuant to legislation, ministerial directive or other externally imposed requirement, the transferee local government shall recognise assets and liabilities and any gain or loss.**
- Aus63.2 Assets transferred to a local government from another local government at no cost, or for nominal consideration, by virtue of legislation, ministerial directive or other externally imposed requirement shall be recognised initially either at the amounts at which the assets were recognised by the transferor local government as at the date of the transfer, or at their fair values.**
- Aus63.3 A restructure of local governments involves the transfer of assets and liabilities of a local government to another local government, at no cost or for nominal consideration, by virtue of legislation, ministerial directive or other externally imposed requirement. This gives rise to assets and liabilities and a gain or loss of the transferee local government. A restructure of local governments may take the form of a new local government

being constituted and other local governments being abolished as a result of a State government's policy to effectively amalgamate a number of local governments.

Aus63.4 A restructure of local governments involves a change in the resources controlled by the local governments involved in the restructure. The transferor local government will decrease its assets by the carrying amount of the assets transferred. The transferred assets will usually be recognised by the transferee at their carrying amounts in the books of the transferor at the time of the transfer. Such amounts provide a practical basis for recognising the transfer of assets, particularly when many assets are involved, as is usually the case in a restructure of local governments. However, the recognition of transferred assets at fair value is permitted by this Standard.

Aus63.5 The restructures of local governments referred to in paragraphs Aus63.3 and Aus63.4 do not involve transfers between the local government and its ownership group but give rise to a gain or loss that is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Aus63.6 Assets and liabilities transferred during the reporting period and recognised in accordance with paragraph Aus63.1 shall be disclosed separately, by class, by way of note or otherwise, and the transferor local government shall be identified.

Aus63.7 Any gain or loss recognised in accordance with paragraph Aus63.1 shall be separately disclosed in the statement of comprehensive income.

Aus63.8 The disclosures required by paragraph Aus63.6 will assist users to identify the assets and liabilities recognised as a result of a restructure separately from other assets and liabilities and to identify the transferor local government. In addition, the disclosures required by paragraph Aus63.7 will assist users to identify separately the gain or loss which results from a restructure of local governments.

Aus63.9 Local governments are not required to apply paragraphs 59 to 63 and the related Appendix B Application Guidance paragraphs of this Standard when disclosing information about restructures of local governments.

Effective date and transition

Effective date

- 64 [Deleted by the AASB]
- 64B AASB 2010-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project* issued in June 2010 amended paragraphs 19, 30 and B56 and added paragraphs B62A and B62B. An entity shall apply those amendments for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2010. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies the amendments for an earlier period it shall disclose that fact. Application shall be prospective from the date when the entity first applied this Standard.
- 64C Paragraphs 65A-65E were added by AASB 2010-3 issued in June 2010. An entity shall apply those amendments for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2010. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies the amendments for an earlier period it shall disclose that fact. The amendments shall be applied to contingent consideration balances arising from business combinations with an acquisition date prior to the application of this Standard, as issued in 2008.
- 64F AASB 2011-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13*, issued in September 2011, amended paragraphs 20, 29, 33, 47, amended the definition of fair value in Appendix A and amended paragraphs B22, B40, B43-B46, B49 and B64. An entity shall apply those amendments when it applies AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*.

Transition

- 65 Assets and liabilities that arose from business combinations whose acquisition dates preceded the application of this Standard shall not be adjusted upon application of this Standard.
- 65A Contingent consideration balances arising from business combinations whose acquisition dates preceded the date when an entity first applied this Standard as issued in 2008 shall not be adjusted upon first application of this Standard. Paragraphs 65B-65E shall be applied in the subsequent accounting for those balances. Paragraphs 65B-65E shall not apply to the accounting for contingent consideration balances arising from business combinations with acquisition dates on or after the date when the entity first applied this Standard as issued in 2008. In paragraphs 65B-65E business combination refers exclusively to

business combinations whose acquisition date preceded the application of this Standard as issued in 2008.

- 65B If a business combination agreement provides for an adjustment to the cost of the combination contingent on future events, the acquirer shall include the amount of that adjustment in the cost of the combination at the acquisition date if the adjustment is probable and can be measured reliably.
- 65C A business combination agreement may allow for adjustments to the cost of the combination that are contingent on one or more future events. The adjustment might, for example, be contingent on a specified level of profit being maintained or achieved in future periods, or on the market price of the instruments issued being maintained. It is usually possible to estimate the amount of any such adjustment at the time of initially accounting for the combination without impairing the reliability of the information, even though some uncertainty exists. If the future events do not occur or the estimate needs to be revised, the cost of the business combination shall be adjusted accordingly.
- 65D However, when a business combination agreement provides for such an adjustment, that adjustment is not included in the cost of the combination at the time of initially accounting for the combination if it either is not probable or cannot be measured reliably. If that adjustment subsequently becomes probable and can be measured reliably, the additional consideration shall be treated as an adjustment to the cost of the combination.
- 65E In some circumstances, the acquirer may be required to make a subsequent payment to the seller as compensation for a reduction in the value of the assets given, equity instruments issued or liabilities incurred or assumed by the acquirer in exchange for control of the acquiree. This is the case, for example, when the acquirer guarantees the market price of equity or debt instruments issued as part of the cost of the business combination and is required to issue additional equity or debt instruments to restore the originally determined cost. In such cases, no increase in the cost of the business combination is recognised. In the case of equity instruments, the fair value of the additional payment is offset by an equal reduction in the value attributed to the instruments initially issued. In the case of debt instruments, the additional payment is regarded as a reduction in the premium or an increase in the discount on the initial issue.
- 66 An entity, such as a mutual entity, that has not yet applied AASB 3 and had one or more business combinations that were accounted for using the purchase method shall apply the transition provisions in paragraphs AusB68 and B69.

Income taxes

- 67 For business combinations in which the acquisition date was before this Standard is applied, the acquirer shall apply the requirements of paragraph 68 of AASB 112, as amended by AASB 2008-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127*, prospectively. That is to say, the acquirer shall not adjust the accounting for prior business combinations for previously recognised changes in recognised deferred tax assets. However, from the date when this Standard is applied, the acquirer shall recognise, as an adjustment to profit or loss (or, if AASB 112 requires, outside profit or loss), changes in recognised deferred tax assets.

Withdrawal of IFRS 3 (2004)

- 68 [Deleted by the AASB]

APPENDIX A

DEFINED TERMS

This appendix is an integral part of AASB 3.

acquiree	The business or businesses that the acquirer obtains control of in a business combination .
acquirer	The entity that obtains control of the acquiree .
acquisition date	The date on which the acquirer obtains control of the acquiree .
business	An integrated set of activities and assets that is capable of being conducted and managed for the purpose of providing a return in the form of dividends, lower costs or other economic benefits directly to investors or other owners, members or participants.
business combination	A transaction or other event in which an acquirer obtains control of one or more businesses . Transactions sometimes referred to as ‘true mergers’ or ‘mergers of equals’ are also business combinations as that term is used in this Standard.
contingent consideration	Usually, an obligation of the acquirer to transfer additional assets or equity interests to the former owners of an acquiree as part of the exchange for control of the acquiree if specified future events occur or conditions are met. However, contingent consideration also may give the acquirer the right to the return of previously transferred consideration if specified conditions are met.
control	The power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.
equity interests	For the purposes of this Standard, <i>equity interests</i> is used broadly to mean ownership interests of investor-owned entities and owner, member or participant interests of mutual entities .

fair value	<i>Fair value</i> is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (See AASB 13.)
goodwill	An asset representing the future economic benefits arising from other assets acquired in a business combination that are not individually identified and separately recognised.
identifiable	An asset is <i>identifiable</i> if it either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) is separable, i.e. capable of being separated or divided from the entity and sold, transferred, licensed, rented or exchanged, either individually or together with a related contract, identifiable asset or liability, regardless of whether the entity intends to do so; or (b) arises from contractual or other legal rights, regardless of whether those rights are transferable or separable from the entity or from other rights and obligations.
intangible asset	An identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance.
mutual entity	An entity, other than an investor-owned entity, that provides dividends, lower costs or other economic benefits directly to its owners , members or participants. For example, a mutual insurance company, a credit union and a co-operative entity are all mutual entities.
non-controlling interest	The equity in a subsidiary not attributable, directly or indirectly, to a parent.
owners	For the purposes of this Standard, <i>owners</i> is used broadly to include holders of equity interests of investor-owned entities and owners or members of, or participants in, mutual entities .

APPENDIX B

APPLICATION GUIDANCE

This appendix is an integral part of AASB 3.

Business combinations of entities under common control (application of paragraph 2(c))

- B1 This Standard does not apply to a business combination of entities or businesses under common control. A business combination involving entities or businesses under common control is a business combination in which all of the combining entities or businesses are ultimately controlled by the same party or parties both before and after the business combination, and that control is not transitory.
- B2 A group of individuals shall be regarded as controlling an entity when, as a result of contractual arrangements, they collectively have the power to govern its financial and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from its activities. Therefore, a business combination is outside the scope of this Standard when the same group of individuals has, as a result of contractual arrangements, ultimate collective power to govern the financial and operating policies of each of the combining entities so as to obtain benefits from their activities, and that ultimate collective power is not transitory.
- B3 An entity may be controlled by an individual or by a group of individuals acting together under a contractual arrangement, and that individual or group of individuals may not be subject to the financial reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. Therefore, it is not necessary for combining entities to be included as part of the same consolidated financial statements for a business combination to be regarded as one involving entities under common control.
- B4 The extent of non-controlling interests in each of the combining entities before and after the business combination is not relevant to determining whether the combination involves entities under common control. Similarly, the fact that one of the combining entities is a subsidiary that has been excluded from the consolidated financial statements is not relevant to determining whether a combination involves entities under common control.

Identifying a business combination (application of paragraph 3)

- B5 This Standard defines a business combination as a transaction or other event in which an acquirer obtains control of one or more businesses. An acquirer might obtain control of an acquiree in a variety of ways, for example:
- (a) by transferring cash, cash equivalents or other assets (including net assets that constitute a business);
 - (b) by incurring liabilities;
 - (c) by issuing equity interests;
 - (d) by providing more than one type of consideration; or
 - (e) without transferring consideration, including by contract alone (see paragraph 43).
- B6 A business combination may be structured in a variety of ways for legal, taxation or other reasons, which include but are not limited to:
- (a) one or more businesses become subsidiaries of an acquirer or the net assets of one or more businesses are legally merged into the acquirer;
 - (b) one combining entity transfers its net assets, or its owners transfer their equity interests, to another combining entity or its owners;
 - (c) all of the combining entities transfer their net assets, or the owners of those entities transfer their equity interests, to a newly formed entity (sometimes referred to as a roll-up or put-together transaction); or
 - (d) a group of former owners of one of the combining entities obtains control of the combined entity.

Definition of a business (application of paragraph 3)

- B7 A business consists of inputs and processes applied to those inputs that have the ability to create outputs. Although businesses usually have outputs, outputs are not required for an integrated set to qualify as a business. The three elements of a business are defined as follows:

- (a) **Input:** Any economic resource that creates, or has the ability to create, outputs when one or more processes are applied to it. Examples include non-current assets (including intangible assets or rights to use non-current assets), intellectual property, the ability to obtain access to necessary materials or rights and employees.
 - (b) **Process:** Any system, standard, protocol, convention or rule that when applied to an input or inputs, creates or has the ability to create outputs. Examples include strategic management processes, operational processes and resource management processes. These processes typically are documented, but an organised workforce having the necessary skills and experience following rules and conventions may provide the necessary processes that are capable of being applied to inputs to create outputs. (Accounting, billing, payroll and other administrative systems typically are not processes used to create outputs.)
 - (c) **Output:** The result of inputs and processes applied to those inputs that provide or have the ability to provide a return in the form of dividends, lower costs or other economic benefits directly to investors or other owners, members or participants.
- B8 To be capable of being conducted and managed for the purposes defined, an integrated set of activities and assets requires two essential elements – inputs and processes applied to those inputs, which together are or will be used to create outputs. However, a business need not include all of the inputs or processes that the seller used in operating that business if market participants are capable of acquiring the business and continuing to produce outputs, for example, by integrating the business with their own inputs and processes.
- B9 The nature of the elements of a business varies by industry and by the structure of an entity’s operations (activities), including the entity’s stage of development. Established businesses often have many different types of inputs, processes and outputs, whereas new businesses often have few inputs and processes and sometimes only a single output (product). Nearly all businesses also have liabilities, but a business need not have liabilities.
- B10 An integrated set of activities and assets in the development stage might not have outputs. If not, the acquirer should consider other factors to determine whether the set is a business. Those factors include, but are not limited to, whether the set:
- (a) has begun planned principal activities;

- (b) has employees, intellectual property and other inputs and processes that could be applied to those inputs;
- (c) is pursuing a plan to produce outputs; and
- (d) will be able to obtain access to customers that will purchase the outputs.

Not all of those factors need to be present for a particular integrated set of activities and assets in the development stage to qualify as a business.

- B11 Determining whether a particular set of assets and activities is a business should be based on whether the integrated set is capable of being conducted and managed as a business by a market participant. Thus, in evaluating whether a particular set is a business, it is not relevant whether a seller operated the set as a business or whether the acquirer intends to operate the set as a business.
- B12 In the absence of evidence to the contrary, a particular set of assets and activities in which goodwill is present shall be presumed to be a business. However, a business need not have goodwill.

Identifying the acquirer (application of paragraphs 6 and 7)

- B13 The guidance in AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements* shall be used to identify the acquirer – the entity that obtains control of the acquiree. If a business combination has occurred but applying the guidance in AASB 127 does not clearly indicate which of the combining entities is the acquirer, the factors in paragraphs B14-B18 shall be considered in making that determination.
- B14 In a business combination effected primarily by transferring cash or other assets or by incurring liabilities, the acquirer is usually the entity that transfers the cash or other assets or incurs the liabilities.
- B15 In a business combination effected primarily by exchanging equity interests, the acquirer is usually the entity that issues its equity interests. However, in some business combinations, commonly called ‘reverse acquisitions’, the issuing entity is the acquiree. Paragraphs B19-B27 provide guidance on accounting for reverse acquisitions. Other pertinent facts and circumstances shall also be considered in identifying the acquirer in a business combination effected by exchanging equity interests, including:

- (a) *the relative voting rights in the combined entity after the business combination* – The acquirer is usually the combining entity whose owners as a group retain or receive the largest portion of the voting rights in the combined entity. In determining which group of owners retains or receives the largest portion of the voting rights, an entity shall consider the existence of any unusual or special voting arrangements and options, warrants or convertible securities.
- (b) *the existence of a large minority voting interest in the combined entity if no other owner or organised group of owners has a significant voting interest* – The acquirer is usually the combining entity whose single owner or organised group of owners holds the largest minority voting interest in the combined entity.
- (c) *the composition of the governing body of the combined entity* – The acquirer is usually the combining entity whose owners have the ability to elect or appoint or to remove a majority of the members of the governing body of the combined entity.
- (d) *the composition of the senior management of the combined entity* – The acquirer is usually the combining entity whose (former) management dominates the management of the combined entity.
- (e) *the terms of the exchange of equity interests* – The acquirer is usually the combining entity that pays a premium over the pre-combination fair value of the equity interests of the other combining entity or entities.

B16 The acquirer is usually the combining entity whose relative size (measured in, for example, assets, revenues or profit) is significantly greater than that of the other combining entity or entities.

B17 In a business combination involving more than two entities, determining the acquirer shall include a consideration of, among other things, which of the combining entities initiated the combination, as well as the relative size of the combining entities.

B18 A new entity formed to effect a business combination is not necessarily the acquirer. If a new entity is formed to issue equity interests to effect a business combination, one of the combining entities that existed before the business combination shall be identified as the acquirer by applying the guidance in paragraphs B13-B17. In contrast, a new entity that transfers cash or other assets or incurs liabilities as consideration may be the acquirer.

Reverse acquisitions

B19 A reverse acquisition occurs when the entity that issues securities (the legal acquirer) is identified as the acquiree for accounting purposes on the basis of the guidance in paragraphs B13-B18. The entity whose equity interests are acquired (the legal acquiree) must be the acquirer for accounting purposes for the transaction to be considered a reverse acquisition. For example, reverse acquisitions sometimes occur when a private operating entity wants to become a public entity but does not want to register its equity shares. To accomplish that, the private entity will arrange for a public entity to acquire its equity interests in exchange for the equity interests of the public entity. In this example, the public entity is the **legal acquirer** because it issued its equity interests, and the private entity is the **legal acquiree** because its equity interests were acquired. However, application of the guidance in paragraphs B13-B18 results in identifying:

- (a) the public entity as the **acquiree** for accounting purposes (the accounting acquiree); and
- (b) the private entity as the **acquirer** for accounting purposes (the accounting acquirer).

The accounting acquiree must meet the definition of a business for the transaction to be accounted for as a reverse acquisition, and all of the recognition and measurement principles in this Standard, including the requirement to recognise goodwill, apply.

Measuring the consideration transferred

B20 In a reverse acquisition, the accounting acquirer usually issues no consideration for the acquiree. Instead, the accounting acquiree usually issues its equity shares to the owners of the accounting acquirer. Accordingly, the acquisition-date fair value of the consideration transferred by the accounting acquirer for its interest in the accounting acquiree is based on the number of equity interests the legal subsidiary would have had to issue to give the owners of the legal parent the same percentage equity interest in the combined entity that results from the reverse acquisition. The fair value of the number of equity interests calculated in that way can be used as the fair value of consideration transferred in exchange for the acquiree.

Preparation and presentation of consolidated financial statements

- B21 Consolidated financial statements prepared following a reverse acquisition are issued under the name of the legal parent (accounting acquiree) but described in the notes as a continuation of the financial statements of the legal subsidiary (accounting acquirer), with one adjustment, which is to adjust retroactively the accounting acquirer's legal capital to reflect the legal capital of the accounting acquiree. That adjustment is required to reflect the capital of the legal parent (the accounting acquiree). Comparative information presented in those consolidated financial statements also is retroactively adjusted to reflect the legal capital of the legal parent (accounting acquiree).
- B22 Because the consolidated financial statements represent the continuation of the financial statements of the legal subsidiary except for its capital structure, the consolidated financial statements reflect:
- (a) the assets and liabilities of the legal subsidiary (the accounting acquirer) recognised and measured at their pre-combination carrying amounts.
 - (b) the assets and liabilities of the legal parent (the accounting acquiree) recognised and measured in accordance with this Standard.
 - (c) the retained earnings and other equity balances of the legal subsidiary (accounting acquirer) **before** the business combination.
 - (d) the amount recognised as issued equity interests in the consolidated financial statements determined by adding the issued equity interest of the legal subsidiary (the accounting acquirer) outstanding immediately before the business combination to the fair value of the legal parent (accounting acquiree). However, the equity structure (i.e. the number and type of equity interests issued) reflects the equity structure of the legal parent (the accounting acquiree), including the equity interests the legal parent issued to effect the combination. Accordingly, the equity structure of the legal subsidiary (the accounting acquirer) is restated using the exchange ratio established in the acquisition agreement to reflect the number of shares of the legal parent (the accounting acquiree) issued in the reverse acquisition.

- (e) the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the legal subsidiary's (accounting acquirer's) pre-combination carrying amounts of retained earnings and other equity interests as discussed in paragraphs B23 and B24.

Non-controlling interest

- B23 In a reverse acquisition, some of the owners of the legal acquiree (the accounting acquirer) might not exchange their equity interests for equity interests of the legal parent (the accounting acquiree). Those owners are treated as a non-controlling interest in the consolidated financial statements after the reverse acquisition. That is because the owners of the legal acquiree that do not exchange their equity interests for equity interests of the legal acquirer have an interest in only the results and net assets of the legal acquiree – not in the results and net assets of the combined entity. Conversely, even though the legal acquirer is the acquiree for accounting purposes, the owners of the legal acquirer have an interest in the results and net assets of the combined entity.
- B24 The assets and liabilities of the legal acquiree are measured and recognised in the consolidated financial statements at their pre-combination carrying amounts (see paragraph B22(a)). Therefore, in a reverse acquisition the non-controlling interest reflects the non-controlling shareholders' proportionate interest in the pre-combination carrying amounts of the legal acquiree's net assets even if the non-controlling interests in other acquisitions are measured at their fair value at the acquisition date.

Earnings per share

- B25 As noted in paragraph B22(d), the equity structure in the consolidated financial statements following a reverse acquisition reflects the equity structure of the legal acquirer (the accounting acquiree), including the equity interests issued by the legal acquirer to effect the business combination.
- B26 In calculating the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding (the denominator of the earnings per share calculation) during the period in which the reverse acquisition occurs:
- (a) the number of ordinary shares outstanding from the beginning of that period to the acquisition date shall be computed on the basis of the weighted average number of ordinary shares of the legal acquiree (accounting acquirer) outstanding during the period

multiplied by the exchange ratio established in the merger agreement; and

- (b) the number of ordinary shares outstanding from the acquisition date to the end of that period shall be the actual number of ordinary shares of the legal acquirer (the accounting acquiree) outstanding during that period.

B27 The basic earnings per share for each comparative period before the acquisition date presented in the consolidated financial statements following a reverse acquisition shall be calculated by dividing:

- (a) the profit or loss of the legal acquiree attributable to ordinary shareholders in each of those periods by
- (b) the legal acquiree's historical weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding multiplied by the exchange ratio established in the acquisition agreement.

Recognising particular assets acquired and liabilities assumed (application of paragraphs 10-13)

Operating leases

B28 The acquirer shall recognise no assets or liabilities related to an operating lease in which the acquiree is the lessee except as required by paragraphs B29 and B30.

B29 The acquirer shall determine whether the terms of each operating lease in which the acquiree is the lessee are favourable or unfavourable. The acquirer shall recognise an intangible asset if the terms of an operating lease are favourable relative to market terms and a liability if the terms are unfavourable relative to market terms. Paragraph B42 provides guidance on measuring the acquisition-date fair value of assets subject to operating leases in which the acquiree is the lessor.

B30 An identifiable intangible asset may be associated with an operating lease, which may be evidenced by market participants' willingness to pay a price for the lease even if it is at market terms. For example, a lease of gates at an airport or of retail space in a prime shopping area might provide entry into a market or other future economic benefits that qualify as identifiable intangible assets, for example, as a customer relationship. In that situation, the acquirer shall recognise the

associated identifiable intangible asset(s) in accordance with paragraph B31.

Intangible assets

- B31 The acquirer shall recognise, separately from goodwill, the identifiable intangible assets acquired in a business combination. An intangible asset is identifiable if it meets either the separability criterion or the contractual-legal criterion.
- B32 An intangible asset that meets the contractual-legal criterion is identifiable even if the asset is not transferable or separable from the acquiree or from other rights and obligations. For example:
- (a) an acquiree leases a manufacturing facility under an operating lease that has terms that are favourable relative to market terms. The lease terms explicitly prohibit transfer of the lease (through either sale or sublease). The amount by which the lease terms are favourable compared with the terms of current market transactions for the same or similar items is an intangible asset that meets the contractual-legal criterion for recognition separately from goodwill, even though the acquirer cannot sell or otherwise transfer the lease contract.
 - (b) an acquiree owns and operates a nuclear power plant. The licence to operate that power plant is an intangible asset that meets the contractual-legal criterion for recognition separately from goodwill, even if the acquirer cannot sell or transfer it separately from the acquired power plant. An acquirer may recognise the fair value of the operating licence and the fair value of the power plant as a single asset for financial reporting purposes if the useful lives of those assets are similar.
 - (c) an acquiree owns a technology patent. It has licensed that patent to others for their exclusive use outside the domestic market, receiving a specified percentage of future foreign revenue in exchange. Both the technology patent and the related licence agreement meet the contractual-legal criterion for recognition separately from goodwill even if selling or exchanging the patent and the related licence agreement separately from one another would not be practical.
- B33 The separability criterion means that an acquired intangible asset is capable of being separated or divided from the acquiree and sold, transferred, licensed, rented or exchanged, either individually or together with a related contract, identifiable asset or liability. An intangible asset that the acquirer would be able to sell, license or

otherwise exchange for something else of value meets the separability criterion even if the acquirer does not intend to sell, license or otherwise exchange it. An acquired intangible asset meets the separability criterion if there is evidence of exchange transactions for that type of asset or an asset of a similar type, even if those transactions are infrequent and regardless of whether the acquirer is involved in them. For example, customer and subscriber lists are frequently licensed and thus meet the separability criterion. Even if an acquiree believes its customer lists have characteristics different from other customer lists, the fact that customer lists are frequently licensed generally means that the acquired customer list meets the separability criterion. However, a customer list acquired in a business combination would not meet the separability criterion if the terms of confidentiality or other agreements prohibit an entity from selling, leasing or otherwise exchanging information about its customers.

B34 An intangible asset that is not individually separable from the acquiree or combined entity meets the separability criterion if it is separable in combination with a related contract, identifiable asset or liability. For example:

- (a) market participants exchange deposit liabilities and related depositor relationship intangible assets in observable exchange transactions. Therefore, the acquirer should recognise the depositor relationship intangible asset separately from goodwill.
- (b) an acquiree owns a registered trademark and documented but unpatented technical expertise used to manufacture the trademarked product. To transfer ownership of a trademark, the owner is also required to transfer everything else necessary for the new owner to produce a product or service indistinguishable from that produced by the former owner. Because the unpatented technical expertise must be separated from the acquiree or combined entity and sold if the related trademark is sold, it meets the separability criterion.

Reacquired rights

B35 As part of a business combination, an acquirer may reacquire a right that it had previously granted to the acquiree to use one or more of the acquirer's recognised or unrecognised assets. Examples of such rights include a right to use the acquirer's trade name under a franchise agreement or a right to use the acquirer's technology under a technology licensing agreement. A reacquired right is an identifiable intangible asset that the acquirer recognises separately from goodwill. Paragraph 29 provides guidance on measuring a reacquired right and

paragraph 55 provides guidance on the subsequent accounting for a reacquired right.

- B36 If the terms of the contract giving rise to a reacquired right are favourable or unfavourable relative to the terms of current market transactions for the same or similar items, the acquirer shall recognise a settlement gain or loss. Paragraph B52 provides guidance for measuring that settlement gain or loss.

Assembled workforce and other items that are not identifiable

- B37 The acquirer subsumes into goodwill the value of an acquired intangible asset that is not identifiable as of the acquisition date. For example, an acquirer may attribute value to the existence of an assembled workforce, which is an existing collection of employees that permits the acquirer to continue to operate an acquired business from the acquisition date. An assembled workforce does not represent the intellectual capital of the skilled workforce – the (often specialised) knowledge and experience that employees of an acquiree bring to their jobs. Because the assembled workforce is not an identifiable asset to be recognised separately from goodwill, any value attributed to it is subsumed into goodwill.
- B38 The acquirer also subsumes into goodwill any value attributed to items that do not qualify as assets at the acquisition date. For example, the acquirer might attribute value to potential contracts the acquiree is negotiating with prospective new customers at the acquisition date. Because those potential contracts are not themselves assets at the acquisition date, the acquirer does not recognise them separately from goodwill. The acquirer should not subsequently reclassify the value of those contracts from goodwill for events that occur after the acquisition date. However, the acquirer should assess the facts and circumstances surrounding events occurring shortly after the acquisition to determine whether a separately recognisable intangible asset existed at the acquisition date.
- B39 After initial recognition, an acquirer accounts for intangible assets acquired in a business combination in accordance with the provisions of AASB 138 *Intangible Assets*. However, as described in paragraph 3 of AASB 138, the accounting for some acquired intangible assets after initial recognition is prescribed by other Australian Accounting Standards.
- B40 The identifiability criteria determine whether an intangible asset is recognised separately from goodwill. However, the criteria neither provide guidance for measuring the fair value of an intangible asset nor restrict the assumptions used in measuring the fair value of an

intangible asset. For example, the acquirer would take into account the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the intangible asset, such as expectations of future contract renewals, in measuring fair value. It is not necessary for the renewals themselves to meet the identifiability criteria. (However, see paragraph 29, which establishes an exception to the fair value measurement principle for reacquired rights recognised in a business combination.) Paragraphs 36 and 37 of AASB 138 provide guidance for determining whether intangible assets should be combined into a single unit of account with other intangible or tangible assets.

Measuring the fair value of particular identifiable assets and a non-controlling interest in an acquiree (application of paragraphs 18 and 19)

Assets with uncertain cash flows (valuation allowances)

B41 The acquirer shall not recognise a separate valuation allowance as of the acquisition date for assets acquired in a business combination that are measured at their acquisition-date fair values because the effects of uncertainty about future cash flows are included in the fair value measure. For example, because this Standard requires the acquirer to measure acquired receivables, including loans, at their acquisition-date fair values, the acquirer does not recognise a separate valuation allowance for the contractual cash flows that are deemed to be uncollectible at that date.

Assets subject to operating leases in which the acquiree is the lessor

B42 In measuring the acquisition-date fair value of an asset such as a building or a patent that is subject to an operating lease in which the acquiree is the lessor, the acquirer shall take into account the terms of the lease. In other words, the acquirer does not recognise a separate asset or liability if the terms of an operating lease are either favourable or unfavourable when compared with market terms as paragraph B29 requires for leases in which the acquiree is the lessee.

Assets that the acquirer intends not to use or to use in a way that is different from the way other market participants would use them

B43 To protect its competitive position, or for other reasons, the acquirer may intend not to use an acquired non-financial asset actively, or it

may not intend to use the asset according to its highest and best use. For example, that might be the case for an acquired research and development intangible asset that the acquirer plans to use defensively by preventing others from using it. Nevertheless, the acquirer shall measure the fair value of the non-financial asset assuming its highest and best use by market participants in accordance with the appropriate valuation premise, both initially and when measuring fair value less costs of disposal for subsequent impairment testing.

Non-controlling interest in an acquiree

- B44 This Standard allows the acquirer to measure a non-controlling interest in the acquiree at its fair value at the acquisition date. Sometimes an acquirer will be able to measure the acquisition-date fair value of a non-controlling interest on the basis of a quoted price in an active market for the equity shares (i.e. those not held by the acquirer). In other situations, however, a quoted price in an active market for the equity shares will not be available. In those situations, the acquirer would measure the fair value of the non-controlling interest using another valuation technique.
- B45 The fair values of the acquirer's interest in the acquiree and the non-controlling interest on a per-share basis might differ. The main difference is likely to be the inclusion of a control premium in the per-share fair value of the acquirer's interest in the acquiree or, conversely, the inclusion of a discount for lack of control (also referred to as a non-controlling interest discount) in the per-share fair value of the non-controlling interest if market participants would take into account such a premium or discount when pricing the non-controlling interest.

Measuring goodwill or a gain from a bargain purchase

Measuring the acquisition-date fair value of the acquirer's interest in the acquiree using valuation techniques (application of paragraph 33)

- B46 In a business combination achieved without the transfer of consideration, the acquirer must substitute the acquisition-date fair value of its interest in the acquiree for the acquisition-date fair value of the consideration transferred to measure goodwill or a gain on a bargain purchase (see paragraphs 32-34).

Special considerations in applying the acquisition method to combinations of mutual entities (application of paragraph 33)

- B47 When two mutual entities combine, the fair value of the equity or member interests in the acquiree (or the fair value of the acquiree) may be more reliably measurable than the fair value of the member interests transferred by the acquirer. In that situation, paragraph 33 requires the acquirer to determine the amount of goodwill by using the acquisition-date fair value of the acquiree's equity interests instead of the acquisition-date fair value of the acquirer's equity interests transferred as consideration. In addition, the acquirer in a combination of mutual entities shall recognise the acquiree's net assets as a direct addition to capital or equity in its statement of financial position, not as an addition to retained earnings, which is consistent with the way in which other types of entities apply the acquisition method.
- B48 Although they are similar in many ways to other businesses, mutual entities have distinct characteristics that arise primarily because their members are both customers and owners. Members of mutual entities generally expect to receive benefits for their membership, often in the form of reduced fees charged for goods and services or patronage dividends. The portion of patronage dividends allocated to each member is often based on the amount of business the member did with the mutual entity during the year.
- B49 A fair value measurement of a mutual entity should include the assumptions that market participants would make about future member benefits as well as any other relevant assumptions market participants would make about the mutual entity. For example, a present value technique may be used to measure the fair value of a mutual entity. The cash flows used as inputs to the model should be based on the expected cash flows of the mutual entity, which are likely to reflect reductions for member benefits, such as reduced fees charged for goods and services.

Determining what is part of the business combination transaction (application of paragraphs 51 and 52)

- B50 The acquirer should consider the following factors, which are neither mutually exclusive nor individually conclusive, to determine whether a transaction is part of the exchange for the acquiree or whether the transaction is separate from the business combination:

- (a) **the reasons for the transaction** – Understanding the reasons why the parties to the combination (the acquirer and the acquiree and their owners, directors and managers – and their agents) entered into a particular transaction or arrangement may provide insight into whether it is part of the consideration transferred and the assets acquired or liabilities assumed. For example, if a transaction is arranged primarily for the benefit of the acquirer or the combined entity rather than primarily for the benefit of the acquiree or its former owners before the combination, that portion of the transaction price paid (and any related assets or liabilities) is less likely to be part of the exchange for the acquiree. Accordingly, the acquirer would account for that portion separately from the business combination.
- (b) **who initiated the transaction** – Understanding who initiated the transaction may also provide insight into whether it is part of the exchange for the acquiree. For example, a transaction or other event that is initiated by the acquirer may be entered into for the purpose of providing future economic benefits to the acquirer or combined entity with little or no benefit received by the acquiree or its former owners before the combination. On the other hand, a transaction or arrangement initiated by the acquiree or its former owners is less likely to be for the benefit of the acquirer or the combined entity and more likely to be part of the business combination transaction.
- (c) **the timing of the transaction** – The timing of the transaction may also provide insight into whether it is part of the exchange for the acquiree. For example, a transaction between the acquirer and the acquiree that takes place during the negotiations of the terms of a business combination may have been entered into in contemplation of the business combination to provide future economic benefits to the acquirer or the combined entity. If so, the acquiree or its former owners before the business combination are likely to receive little or no benefit from the transaction except for benefits they receive as part of the combined entity.

Effective settlement of a pre-existing relationship between the acquirer and acquiree in a business combination (application of paragraph 52(a))

B51 The acquirer and acquiree may have a relationship that existed before they contemplated the business combination, referred to here as a ‘pre-existing relationship’. A pre-existing relationship between the acquirer and acquiree may be contractual (for example, vendor and customer or

licensor and licensee) or non-contractual (for example, plaintiff and defendant).

B52 If the business combination in effect settles a pre-existing relationship, the acquirer recognises a gain or loss, measured as follows:

- (a) for a pre-existing non-contractual relationship (such as a lawsuit), fair value.
- (b) for a pre-existing contractual relationship, the lesser of (i) and (ii):
 - (i) the amount by which the contract is favourable or unfavourable from the perspective of the acquirer when compared with terms for current market transactions for the same or similar items. (An unfavourable contract is a contract that is unfavourable in terms of current market terms. It is not necessarily an onerous contract in which the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract exceed the economic benefits expected to be received under it.)
 - (ii) the amount of any stated settlement provisions in the contract available to the counterparty to whom the contract is unfavourable.

If (ii) is less than (i), the difference is included as part of the business combination accounting.

The amount of gain or loss recognised may depend in part on whether the acquirer had previously recognised a related asset or liability, and the reported gain or loss therefore may differ from the amount calculated by applying the above requirements.

B53 A pre-existing relationship may be a contract that the acquirer recognises as a reacquired right. If the contract includes terms that are favourable or unfavourable when compared with pricing for current market transactions for the same or similar items, the acquirer recognises, separately from the business combination, a gain or loss for the effective settlement of the contract, measured in accordance with paragraph B52.

Arrangements for contingent payments to employees or selling shareholders (application of paragraph 52(b))

- B54 Whether arrangements for contingent payments to employees or selling shareholders are contingent consideration in the business combination or are separate transactions depends on the nature of the arrangements. Understanding the reasons why the acquisition agreement includes a provision for contingent payments, who initiated the arrangement and when the parties entered into the arrangement may be helpful in assessing the nature of the arrangement.
- B55 If it is not clear whether an arrangement for payments to employees or selling shareholders is part of the exchange for the acquiree or is a transaction separate from the business combination, the acquirer should consider the following indicators:
- (a) *Continuing employment* – The terms of continuing employment by the selling shareholders who become key employees may be an indicator of the substance of a contingent consideration arrangement. The relevant terms of continuing employment may be included in an employment agreement, acquisition agreement or some other document. A contingent consideration arrangement in which the payments are automatically forfeited if employment terminates is remuneration for post-combination services. Arrangements in which the contingent payments are not affected by employment termination may indicate that the contingent payments are additional consideration rather than remuneration.
 - (b) *Duration of continuing employment* – If the period of required employment coincides with or is longer than the contingent payment period, that fact may indicate that the contingent payments are, in substance, remuneration.
 - (c) *Level of remuneration* – Situations in which employee remuneration other than the contingent payments is at a reasonable level in comparison with that of other key employees in the combined entity may indicate that the contingent payments are additional consideration rather than remuneration.
 - (d) *Incremental payments to employees* – If selling shareholders who do not become employees receive lower contingent payments on a per-share basis than the selling shareholders who become employees of the combined entity, that fact may indicate that the incremental amount of contingent payments to the selling shareholders who become employees is remuneration.

- (e) *Number of shares owned* – The relative number of shares owned by the selling shareholders who remain as key employees may be an indicator of the substance of the contingent consideration arrangement. For example, if the selling shareholders who owned substantially all of the shares in the acquiree continue as key employees, that fact may indicate that the arrangement is, in substance, a profit-sharing arrangement intended to provide remuneration for post-combination services. Alternatively, if selling shareholders who continue as key employees owned only a small number of shares of the acquiree and all selling shareholders receive the same amount of contingent consideration on a per-share basis, that fact may indicate that the contingent payments are additional consideration. The pre-acquisition ownership interests held by parties related to selling shareholders who continue as key employees, such as family members, should also be considered.
- (f) *Linkage to the valuation* – If the initial consideration transferred at the acquisition date is based on the low end of a range established in the valuation of the acquiree and the contingent formula relates to that valuation approach, that fact may suggest that the contingent payments are additional consideration. Alternatively, if the contingent payment formula is consistent with prior profit-sharing arrangements, that fact may suggest that the substance of the arrangement is to provide remuneration.
- (g) *Formula for determining consideration* – The formula used to determine the contingent payment may be helpful in assessing the substance of the arrangement. For example, if a contingent payment is determined on the basis of a multiple of earnings, that might suggest that the obligation is contingent consideration in the business combination and that the formula is intended to establish or verify the fair value of the acquiree. In contrast, a contingent payment that is a specified percentage of earnings might suggest that the obligation to employees is a profit-sharing arrangement to remunerate employees for services rendered.
- (h) *Other agreements and issues* – The terms of other arrangements with selling shareholders (such as agreements not to compete, executory contracts, consulting contracts and property lease agreements) and the income tax treatment of contingent payments may indicate that contingent payments are attributable to something other than consideration for the acquiree. For example, in connection with the acquisition, the acquirer might enter into a property lease arrangement with a significant selling shareholder. If the lease payments specified in the lease contract are significantly below market, some or all of the contingent

payments to the lessor (the selling shareholder) required by a separate arrangement for contingent payments might be, in substance, payments for the use of the leased property that the acquirer should recognise separately in its post-combination financial statements. In contrast, if the lease contract specifies lease payments that are consistent with market terms for the leased property, the arrangement for contingent payments to the selling shareholder may be contingent consideration in the business combination.

Acquirer share-based payment awards exchanged for awards held by the acquiree's employees (application of paragraph 52(b))

B56 An acquirer may exchange its share-based payment awards¹ (replacement awards) for awards held by employees of the acquiree. Exchanges of share options or other share-based payment awards in conjunction with a business combination are accounted for as modifications of share-based payment awards in accordance with AASB 2 *Share-based Payment*. If the acquirer replaces the acquiree awards, either all or a portion of the market-based measure of the acquirer's replacement awards shall be included in measuring the consideration transferred in the business combination. Paragraphs B57-B62 provide guidance on how to allocate the market-based measure. However, in situations in which acquiree awards would expire as a consequence of a business combination and if the acquirer replaces those awards when it is not obliged to do so, all of the market-based measure of the replacement awards shall be recognised as remuneration cost in the post-combination financial statements in accordance with AASB 2. That is to say, none of the market-based measure of those awards shall be included in measuring the consideration transferred in the business combination. The acquirer is obliged to replace the acquiree awards if the acquiree or its employees have the ability to enforce replacement. For example, for the purposes of applying this guidance, the acquirer is obliged to replace the acquiree's awards if replacement is required by:

- (a) the terms of the acquisition agreement;
- (b) the terms of the acquiree's awards; or
- (c) applicable laws or regulations.

¹ In paragraphs B56-B62 the term 'share-based payment awards' refers to vested or unvested share-based payment transactions.

- B57 To determine the portion of a replacement award that is part of the consideration transferred for the acquiree and the portion that is remuneration for post-combination service, the acquirer shall measure both the replacement awards granted by the acquirer and the acquiree awards as of the acquisition date in accordance with AASB 2. The portion of the market-based measure of the replacement award that is part of the consideration transferred in exchange for the acquiree equals the portion of the acquiree award that is attributable to pre-combination service.
- B58 The portion of the replacement award attributable to pre-combination service is the market-based measure of the acquiree award multiplied by the ratio of the portion of the vesting period completed to the greater of the total vesting period or the original vesting period of the acquiree award. The vesting period is the period during which all the specified vesting conditions are to be satisfied. Vesting conditions are defined in AASB 2.
- B59 The portion of a non-vested replacement award attributable to post-combination service, and therefore recognised as remuneration cost in the post-combination financial statements, equals the total market-based measure of the replacement award less the amount attributed to pre-combination service. Therefore, the acquirer attributes any excess of the market-based measure of the replacement award over the market-based measure of the acquiree award to post-combination service and recognises that excess as remuneration cost in the post-combination financial statements. The acquirer shall attribute a portion of a replacement award to post-combination service if it requires post-combination service, regardless of whether employees had rendered all of the service required for their acquiree awards to vest before the acquisition date.
- B60 The portion of a non-vested replacement award attributable to pre-combination service, as well as the portion attributable to post-combination service, shall reflect the best available estimate of the number of replacement awards expected to vest. For example, if the market-based measure of the portion of a replacement award attributed to pre-combination service is CU100 and the acquirer expects that only 95 per cent of the award will vest, the amount included in consideration transferred in the business combination is CU95. Changes in the estimated number of replacement awards expected to vest are reflected in remuneration cost for the periods in which the changes or forfeitures occur not as adjustments to the consideration transferred in the business combination. Similarly, the effects of other events, such as modifications or the ultimate outcome of awards with performance conditions, that occur after the acquisition date are accounted for in

accordance with AASB 2 in determining remuneration cost for the period in which an event occurs.

- B61 The same requirements for determining the portions of a replacement award attributable to pre-combination and post-combination service apply regardless of whether a replacement award is classified as a liability or as an equity instrument in accordance with the provisions of AASB 2. All changes in the market-based measure of awards classified as liabilities after the acquisition date and the related income tax effects are recognised in the acquirer's post-combination financial statements in the period(s) in which the changes occur.
- B62 The income tax effects of replacement awards of share-based payments shall be recognised in accordance with the provisions of AASB 112 *Income Taxes*.

Equity-settled share-based payment transactions of the acquiree

- B62A The acquiree may have outstanding share-based payment transactions that the acquirer does not exchange for its share-based payment transactions. If vested, those acquiree share-based payment transactions are part of the non-controlling interest in the acquiree and are measured at their market-based measure. If unvested, they are measured at their market-based measure as if the acquisition date were the grant date in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 30.
- B62B The market-based measure of unvested share-based payment transactions is allocated to the non-controlling interest on the basis of the ratio of the portion of the vesting period completed to the greater of the total vesting period and the original vesting period of the share-based payment transaction. The balance is allocated to post-combination service.

Other Australian Accounting Standards that provide guidance on subsequent measurement and accounting (application of paragraph 54)

- B63 Examples of other Australian Accounting Standards that provide guidance on subsequently measuring and accounting for assets acquired and liabilities assumed or incurred in a business combination include:
- (a) AASB 138 prescribes the accounting for identifiable intangible assets acquired in a business combination. The acquirer

measures goodwill at the amount recognised at the acquisition date less any accumulated impairment losses. AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets* prescribes the accounting for impairment losses.

- (b) AASB 4 *Insurance Contracts* provides guidance on the subsequent accounting for an insurance contract acquired in a business combination.
- (c) AASB 112 prescribes the subsequent accounting for deferred tax assets (including unrecognised deferred tax assets) and liabilities acquired in a business combination.
- (d) AASB 2 provides guidance on subsequent measurement and accounting for the portion of replacement share-based payment awards issued by an acquirer that is attributable to employees' future services.
- (e) AASB 127 (as amended in March 2008) provides guidance on accounting for changes in a parent's ownership interest in a subsidiary after control is obtained.

Disclosures (application of paragraphs 59 and 61)

B64 To meet the objective in paragraph 59, the acquirer shall disclose the following information for each business combination that occurs during the reporting period:

- (a) the name and a description of the acquiree.
- (b) the acquisition date.
- (c) the percentage of voting equity interests acquired.
- (d) the primary reasons for the business combination and a description of how the acquirer obtained control of the acquiree.
- (e) a qualitative description of the factors that make up the goodwill recognised, such as expected synergies from combining operations of the acquiree and the acquirer, intangible assets that do not qualify for separate recognition or other factors.
- (f) the acquisition-date fair value of the total consideration transferred and the acquisition-date fair value of each major class of consideration, such as:

- (i) cash;
 - (ii) other tangible or intangible assets, including a business or subsidiary of the acquirer;
 - (iii) liabilities incurred, for example, a liability for contingent consideration; and
 - (iv) equity interests of the acquirer, including the number of instruments or interests issued or issuable and the method of measuring the fair value of those instruments or interests.
- (g) for contingent consideration arrangements and indemnification assets:
- (i) the amount recognised as of the acquisition date;
 - (ii) a description of the arrangement and the basis for determining the amount of the payment; and
 - (iii) an estimate of the range of outcomes (undiscounted) or, if a range cannot be estimated, that fact and the reasons why a range cannot be estimated. If the maximum amount of the payment is unlimited, the acquirer shall disclose that fact.
- (h) for acquired receivables:
- (i) the fair value of the receivables;
 - (ii) the gross contractual amounts receivable; and
 - (iii) the best estimate at the acquisition date of the contractual cash flows not expected to be collected.
- The disclosures shall be provided by major class of receivable, such as loans, direct finance leases and any other class of receivables.
- (i) the amounts recognised as of the acquisition date for each major class of assets acquired and liabilities assumed.
 - (j) for each contingent liability recognised in accordance with paragraph 23, the information required in paragraph 85 of *AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent*

Assets. If a contingent liability is not recognised because its fair value cannot be measured reliably, the acquirer shall disclose:

- (i) the information required by paragraph 86 of AASB 137; and
 - (ii) the reasons why the liability cannot be measured reliably.
- (k) the total amount of goodwill that is expected to be deductible for tax purposes.
- (l) for transactions that are recognised separately from the acquisition of assets and assumption of liabilities in the business combination in accordance with paragraph 51:
- (i) a description of each transaction;
 - (ii) how the acquirer accounted for each transaction;
 - (iii) the amounts recognised for each transaction and the line item in the financial statements in which each amount is recognised; and
 - (iv) if the transaction is the effective settlement of a pre-existing relationship, the method used to determine the settlement amount.
- (m) the disclosure of separately recognised transactions required by (l) shall include the amount of acquisition-related costs and, separately, the amount of those costs recognised as an expense and the line item or items in the statement of comprehensive income in which those expenses are recognised. The amount of any issue costs not recognised as an expense and how they were recognised shall also be disclosed.
- (n) in a bargain purchase (see paragraphs 34-36):
- (i) the amount of any gain recognised in accordance with paragraph 34 and the line item in the statement of comprehensive income in which the gain is recognised; and
 - (ii) a description of the reasons why the transaction resulted in a gain.

- (o) for each business combination in which the acquirer holds less than 100 per cent of the equity interests in the acquiree at the acquisition date:
 - (i) the amount of the non-controlling interest in the acquiree recognised at the acquisition date and the measurement basis for that amount; and
 - (ii) for each non-controlling interest in an acquiree measured at fair value, the valuation technique(s) and significant inputs used to measure that value.
- (p) in a business combination achieved in stages:
 - (i) the acquisition-date fair value of the equity interest in the acquiree held by the acquirer immediately before the acquisition date; and
 - (ii) the amount of any gain or loss recognised as a result of remeasuring to fair value the equity interest in the acquiree held by the acquirer before the business combination (see paragraph 42) and the line item in the statement of comprehensive income in which that gain or loss is recognised.

- (q) the following information:
 - (i) the amounts of revenue and profit or loss of the acquiree since the acquisition date included in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the reporting period; and
 - (ii) the revenue and profit or loss of the combined entity for the current reporting period as though the acquisition date for all business combinations that occurred during the year had been as of the beginning of the annual reporting period.

If disclosure of any of the information required by this subparagraph is impracticable, the acquirer shall disclose that fact and explain why the disclosure is impracticable. This Standard uses the term 'impracticable' with the same meaning as in AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*.

B65 For individually immaterial business combinations occurring during the reporting period that are material collectively, the acquirer shall disclose in aggregate the information required by paragraph B64(e)-(q).

RDRB65.1 For individually immaterial business combinations occurring during the reporting period that are material collectively, an acquirer applying Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements shall disclose in aggregate the information required by paragraphs B64(f), B64(g), B64(i), B64(n)(i), B64(o)(i) and B64(p) and the first sentence of paragraph B64(j).

B66 If the acquisition date of a business combination is after the end of the reporting period but before the financial statements are authorised for issue, the acquirer shall disclose the information required by paragraph B64 unless the initial accounting for the business combination is incomplete at the time the financial statements are authorised for issue. In that situation, the acquirer shall describe which disclosures could not be made and the reasons why they cannot be made.

B67 To meet the objective in paragraph 61, the acquirer shall disclose the following information for each material business combination or in the aggregate for individually immaterial business combinations that are material collectively:

- (a) if the initial accounting for a business combination is incomplete (see paragraph 45) for particular assets, liabilities, non-controlling interests or items of consideration and the amounts recognised in the financial statements for the business combination thus have been determined only provisionally:
 - (i) the reasons why the initial accounting for the business combination is incomplete;
 - (ii) the assets, liabilities, equity interests or items of consideration for which the initial accounting is incomplete; and
 - (iii) the nature and amount of any measurement period adjustments recognised during the reporting period in accordance with paragraph 49.
- (b) for each reporting period after the acquisition date until the entity collects, sells or otherwise loses the right to a contingent consideration asset, or until the entity settles a contingent consideration liability or the liability is cancelled or expires:

- (i) any changes in the recognised amounts, including any differences arising upon settlement;
 - (ii) any changes in the range of outcomes (undiscounted) and the reasons for those changes; and
 - (iii) the valuation techniques and key model inputs used to measure contingent consideration.
- (c) for contingent liabilities recognised in a business combination, the acquirer shall disclose the information required by paragraphs 84 and 85 of AASB 137 for each class of provision.
- (d) a reconciliation of the carrying amount of goodwill at the beginning and end of the reporting period showing separately:
- (i) the gross amount and accumulated impairment losses at the beginning of the reporting period.
 - (ii) additional goodwill recognised during the reporting period, except goodwill included in a disposal group that, on acquisition, meets the criteria to be classified as held for sale in accordance with AASB 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*.
 - (iii) adjustments resulting from the subsequent recognition of deferred tax assets during the reporting period in accordance with paragraph 67.
 - (iv) goodwill included in a disposal group classified as held for sale in accordance with AASB 5 and goodwill derecognised during the reporting period without having previously been included in a disposal group classified as held for sale.
 - (v) impairment losses recognised during the reporting period in accordance with AASB 136. (AASB 136 requires disclosure of information about the recoverable amount and impairment of goodwill in addition to this requirement.)
 - (vi) net exchange rate differences arising during the reporting period in accordance with AASB 121 *The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates*.
 - (vii) any other changes in the carrying amount during the reporting period.

(viii) the gross amount and accumulated impairment losses at the end of the reporting period.

(e) the amount and an explanation of any gain or loss recognised in the current reporting period that both:

- (i) relates to the identifiable assets acquired or liabilities assumed in a business combination that was effected in the current or previous reporting period; and
- (ii) is of such a size, nature or incidence that disclosure is relevant to understanding the combined entity's financial statements.

RDRB67.1 An entity applying Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements is not required to disclose the reconciliation specified in paragraph B67(d) for prior periods.

Transitional provisions for business combinations involving only mutual entities or by contract alone (application of paragraph 66)

B68 [Deleted by the AASB]

AusB68 Paragraph Aus1.2 provides that this Standard applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2009. Paragraph Aus1.3 allows earlier application by for-profit entities only. However, an entity shall apply this Standard only at the beginning of an annual reporting period that begins on or after 30 June 2007. If an entity applies this Standard before its effective date, the entity shall disclose that fact and shall apply AASB 127 (as amended in March 2008) at the same time.

B69 The requirement to apply this Standard prospectively has the following effect for a business combination involving only mutual entities or by contract alone if the acquisition date for that business combination is before the application of this Standard:

- (a) *Classification* – An entity shall continue to classify the prior business combination in accordance with the entity's previous accounting policies for such combinations.
- (b) *Previously recognised goodwill* – At the beginning of the first annual period in which this Standard is applied, the carrying

amount of goodwill arising from the prior business combination shall be its carrying amount at that date in accordance with the entity's previous accounting policies. In determining that amount, the entity shall eliminate the carrying amount of any accumulated amortisation of that goodwill and the corresponding decrease in goodwill. No other adjustments shall be made to the carrying amount of goodwill.

- (c) *Goodwill previously recognised as a deduction from equity* – The entity's previous accounting policies may have resulted in goodwill arising from the prior business combination being recognised as a deduction from equity. In that situation the entity shall not recognise that goodwill as an asset at the beginning of the first annual period in which this Standard is applied. Furthermore, the entity shall not recognise in profit or loss any part of that goodwill when it disposes of all or part of the business to which that goodwill relates or when a cash-generating unit to which the goodwill relates becomes impaired.
- (d) *Subsequent accounting for goodwill* – From the beginning of the first annual period in which this Standard is applied, an entity shall discontinue amortising goodwill arising from the prior business combination and shall test goodwill for impairment in accordance with AASB 136.
- (e) *Previously recognised negative goodwill* – An entity that accounted for the prior business combination by applying the purchase method may have recognised a deferred credit for an excess of its interest in the net fair value of the acquiree's identifiable assets and liabilities over the cost of that interest (sometimes called negative goodwill). If so, the entity shall derecognise the carrying amount of that deferred credit at the beginning of the first annual period in which this Standard is applied with a corresponding adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings at that date.

DELETED IFRS 3 TEXT

Deleted IFRS 3 text is not part of AASB 3.

Paragraph 64

This IFRS shall be applied prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2009. Earlier application is permitted. However, this IFRS shall be applied only at the beginning of an annual reporting period that begins on or after 30 June 2007. If an entity applies this IFRS before 1 July 2009, it shall disclose that fact and apply IAS 27 (as amended in 2008) at the same time.

Paragraph 68

This IFRS supersedes IFRS 3 *Business Combinations* (as issued in 2004).

Paragraph B68

Paragraph 64 provides that this IFRS applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 July 2009. Earlier application is permitted. However, an entity shall apply this IFRS only at the beginning of an annual reporting period that begins on or after 30 June 2007. If an entity applies this IFRS before its effective date, the entity shall disclose that fact and shall apply IAS 27 (as amended in 2008) at the same time.

BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS ON AASB 2008-11

This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, AASB 3. The Basis for Conclusions was originally published with AASB 2008-11 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities.

Background

BC1 This Basis for Conclusions summarises the Australian Accounting Standards Board's (AASB) decisions in reaching the conclusions in this Standard. Individual Board members gave greater weight to some factors than to others.

Significant Issues

BC2 The AASB issued a revised AASB 3 *Business Combinations* in March 2008. At that time, the Board decided that the requirements of AASB 3 (March 2008) should only be available for early adoption by for-profit entities, until further work was undertaken on the implications of applying the requirements of AASB 3 (March 2008) to not-for-profit entities. Accordingly, the Board included in the Preface to AASB 3 (March 2008) the following statement:

Prior to the mandatory application date of this Standard, being 1 July 2009, the AASB will consider its suitability for combinations among not-for-profit entities. In doing so, the AASB will have regard to the criteria being developed for judging when IFRSs should be modified for application by not-for-profit entities. Those criteria will assist in clarifying whether this Standard should be amended to include an additional scope exclusion or other amendments and, if so, the extent of that exclusion or other amendments in an Australian not-for-profit context. In light of this, not-for-profit entities cannot adopt this Standard prior to the mandatory application date.

BC3 As part of its subsequent deliberations, the Board noted the view of some that the difficulties in applying the acquisition method when a business combination does not involve consideration (including the difficulties of identifying an acquirer), which is often the case in business combinations among not-for-profit entities, means that the principles in AASB 3 (March 2008) are inappropriate for such combinations. However, the Board decided that, in principle, there is no conceptual basis for accounting for business combinations among not-for-profit entities differently from other analogous types of business combinations.

- BC4 In particular, the Board noted that the types of difficulties noted in paragraph BC3 are also issues that may be encountered in business combinations of for-profit entities (such as combinations by contract alone). Therefore, consistent with transaction-neutral principles, the Board did not consider that there was sufficient reason to justify a different accounting treatment for business combinations among not-for-profit entities.
- BC5 The Board observed that the motivations for business combinations among not-for-profit entities, such as to provide their beneficiaries with a broader range of, or access to, services and cost savings through economies of scale, are similar to those for business combinations among other entities. The Board noted a possible alternative to the acquisition method in AASB 3 for business combinations among not-for-profit entities might be the ‘fresh start’ method, especially where it is difficult to identify the acquirer. The fresh start method assumes that none of the combining entities survives the business combination as an independent reporting entity. Rather, the business combination is viewed as a transfer of the net assets of the combining entities to a new entity that assumes control over them. The Board noted the potential significant costs and practical difficulties that a fresh start alternative would impose, and therefore concluded that the potential advantages of using the fresh start method for some business combinations among not-for-profit entities would be outweighed by the disadvantages.
- BC6 However, the Board noted that the accounting for business combinations may differ depending on whether entities, such as local governments or universities, are commonly controlled. In that regard, the Board confirmed that further work should be undertaken on its longer-term ‘control in the public sector’ project, which should include consideration of whether local governments or universities within a jurisdiction are subject to common control.
- BC7 In the interim, the Board decided to maintain the status quo in respect of accounting for restructures of local governments by substantially incorporating the requirements originally transferred from AAS 27 *Financial Reporting by Local Governments* to superseded AASB 3 (as amended in December 2007 by AASB 2007-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Review of AASs 27, 29 and 31*) into revised AASB 3 (March 2008, as amended). The Board noted that the relief carried forward from AAS 27 might be impacted by the progress it makes on its ‘control in the public sector’ project.
- BC8 The Board noted that this approach to restructures of local governments, consistent with its general approach to the short-term

review of AASs 27, 29 and 31, is pragmatic and a consequence of the past requirements in AAS 27.

- BC9 The Board also considered the amendments made by the New Zealand Financial Reporting Standards Board to revised NZ IFRS 3 *Business Combinations* (March 2008) in the context of business combinations among not-for-profit entities, including definitions of public benefit entities, business and equity interests. In making its decision, the Board considered the work undertaken to date on Invitation to Comment ITC 14 *Not-for-Profit Entity Definition and Guidance*, which sought input on using the definition and guidance from NZ IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* in Australia. The Board suspended further work on ITC 14 until the development of guidelines that can be used for modifying IFRSs for application by not-for-profit entities. In light of this, the Board decided that no further changes should be made to AASB 3 (March 2008, as amended) in respect of not-for-profit entities.