

5 September 2022

## Call for Research Proposals – Intangible Assets

### Contributing a New Zealand perspective to the international discussion on accounting for intangible assets

The External Reporting Board (XRFB)'s vision is that New Zealand prospers through effective decision making for resource allocation informed by high-quality, trusted, and integrated reporting. One aspect of delivering on this vision is undertaking research into the financial and non-financial information needs of users of general purpose financial reports. The New Zealand Accounting Standards Board (NZASB) uses the research outcomes as a basis for considering future enhancements to accounting standards, and to inform efforts to influence the work of the international standard-setting boards.

Intangible assets are increasingly important in business models here in New Zealand and globally. The accounting standard which addresses intangible assets (IAS 38 *Intangible Assets*) was issued in the late 1990s and remains substantively the same. Since the 1990s the world has changed significantly, creating many new types of intangibles, not originally contemplated when the standard was written. Stakeholders, both in New Zealand and internationally, have raised concerns about this. These concerns have been noted by national and international standard setters, and there is a current international call for research into various aspects of the accounting for intangible assets, to provide evidence to assist in a comprehensive review of IAS 38.

To understand the New Zealand perspective and, as part of its contribution to the international discussion, the XRFB invites proposals for research projects relating to the accounting for intangible assets and will support this research with a grant of NZ\$5,000 for each successful applicant.

The objective of the call is to seek research which investigates an aspect of the accounting for intangible assets that is unique and/or significant to New Zealand, for the purposes of contributing to the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) [2023 Research Forum](#). This will be held in November 2023 in conjunction with *Accounting in Europe and the European Accounting Review*. Completed papers must be submitted by 31 March 2023. New Zealand-relevant research will also help to inform the future activities of the NZASB with respect to the accounting for intangible assets.

We encourage both academics and non-academics to get involved in this exciting research topic and take this opportunity to influence future standard-setting activity on accounting for intangibles. Further information, including our particular research focus areas, is provided in **Section A**. The requirements for the research proposals are provided in **Section B**.

Proposals should be submitted by email to [Carly.Berry@xrb.govt.nz](mailto:Carly.Berry@xrb.govt.nz) by 14 October 2022.



## Section A: Focus of the research proposal

In response to stakeholder feedback on its Third Agenda Consultation, the IASB has recently added a project on intangible assets to its research pipeline, with the aim to comprehensively review IAS 38. The IASB's [2023 Research Forum](#) will focus on the topic of accounting for intangible assets and researchers are encouraged to contribute evidence on intangible assets from a variety of perspectives, including:

- Recognition and measurement (internally generated assets; internally generated vs intangible assets acquired in business combinations; new types of intangible assets).
- Disclosure in financial statements (including internally generated and unrecognised assets; research and development expenditure).
- Other information sources (including management commentary; sustainability reporting).
- Related projects (including pollutant pricing mechanisms; cryptocurrencies).

### Particular areas of interest for the NZASB

Aligned with the XRB's purpose, we aim to provide accounting standards that are internationally credible and relevant to New Zealand; involvement at the research phase of a project is critical to this. We are particularly interested in receiving proposals which relate to **recognition and measurement** of intangible assets, as described above. We will consider other topics, provided they are significant and/or unique to New Zealand. All proposals must state how they have determined New Zealand relevancy.

## Section B: Requirements for research proposals and research progression

The purpose of the IASB Research Forum is to encourage discussion between academics and non-academics. Research results should be written so that they are understandable to a diverse audience. Papers using analytical approaches, empirical-archival methods, field study methods, experiments, or surveys are encouraged.

To be considered for the research grant of NZ\$5,000, research proposals must be submitted to the XRB by 14 October 2022. The successful applicant will be notified by 28 October 2022, following which the applicant will meet with XRB project staff and members of the NZASB to discuss the proposal and research plan.

An interim progress report will be due on 31 January 2023. A final draft paper will be due to the NZASB on 28 February 2023. XRB project staff and NZASB board members will provide feedback before the final paper is due to the XRB and IASB by 31 March 2023. The researcher will be required to present their findings to the NZASB at a mutually acceptable date/time.

