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## IASB<sup>®</sup> meeting

Date	<b>April 2026</b>
Project	<b>Economic Benefits from Use of a Battery under an Offtake Arrangement (IFRS 16)</b>
Topic	<b>Finalisation of agenda decision</b>
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## Introduction

1. At its March 2026 meeting, the IFRS Interpretations Committee (Committee) decided not to add a standard-setting project to the work plan in response to two submissions about an electricity retailer's accounting for a battery offtake arrangement. The Committee instead decided to finalise an agenda decision that explained its reasons for not adding a standard-setting project.
2. The purpose of this meeting is to ask the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) members whether they object to the agenda decision, as required by paragraph 8.7 of the IFRS Foundation [Due Process Handbook](#).

## Background

### ***Summary of the fact pattern***

3. In [September 2025](#), the Committee discussed a fact pattern in which a battery owner and an electricity retailer are registered participants in a gross pool electricity market. The battery owner and the electricity retailer enter into a battery offtake arrangement.

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4. Under the terms and conditions of the offtake arrangement, the battery owner retains custody of the battery but is contractually obliged to operate it in accordance with the electricity retailer's instructions, which cover 100% of the capacity of the battery; the battery cannot be substituted. The fact pattern in the agenda decision (see the Appendix to this paper) describes how transactions occurring under the offtake arrangement are settled.
  5. Paragraph 9 of IFRS 16 *Leases* states that 'a contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. Applying paragraph B9 of IFRS 16, to assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time, the customer—throughout the period of use—must have both:
    - (a) the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset; and
    - (b) the right to direct the use of the identified asset.
  6. The fact pattern described in the submissions assumed that the electricity retailer has the right to direct the use of the battery (paragraph B9(b) of IFRS 16). The submissions asked whether, under the offtake arrangement, the electricity retailer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the battery (paragraph B9(a) of IFRS 16).

### ***The Committee's analysis and conclusions***

7. Paragraph B21 of IFRS 16 specifies that:

... A customer can obtain economic benefits from use of an asset directly or indirectly in many ways, such as by using, holding or sub-leasing the asset. The economic benefits from use of an asset include its primary output and by-products (including potential cash flows derived from these items), and other economic benefits

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from using the asset that could be realised from a commercial transaction with a third party.

8. The Committee observed that, in the fact pattern described in the submissions:
  - (a) the economic benefits from use of the battery are derived from its storage capability and capacity; the battery is used to store, and then release, electricity.
  - (b) the battery offtake arrangement provides the electricity retailer with the economic benefits derived from the battery storage because the electricity retailer has the exclusive right:
    - (i) to use the entire capacity of the battery throughout the period of use (for the duration of the arrangement); and
    - (ii) to direct the battery owner as to whether, when and by how much to charge and discharge the battery.
9. Therefore, applying paragraph B21 of IFRS 16 to the fact pattern, the Committee concluded that the electricity retailer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the battery.
10. The Committee also observed that an entity, in determining whether it has the right to direct the use of an identified asset, considers the terms and conditions of the arrangement and all relevant facts and circumstances.
11. Based on its analysis, the Committee concluded that the principles and requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards provide an adequate basis for an electricity retailer, as the customer in a battery offtake arrangement as described in the submissions, to determine whether it has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the battery. Therefore, the Committee tentatively decided not to add a standard-setting project to the work plan and, instead, published a [tentative agenda decision](#).

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## Feedback on the tentative agenda decision

12. The Committee received 13 comment letters on its tentative agenda decision by the comment letter deadline.<sup>1</sup> [Agenda Paper 3](#) for the Committee’s March 2026 meeting (March 2026 agenda paper) summarised respondents’ comments and set out our analysis of those comments.
13. Of the 13 respondents:
- (a) eleven respondents agreed—or did not disagree—with the tentative agenda decision;
  - (b) one respondent (a preparer of financial statement) disagreed (see paragraphs 14–15 of this paper); and
  - (c) one respondent did not express agreement or disagreement.
14. The respondent who disagreed with the tentative agenda decision said the Committee has been inconsistent in its application of paragraph B21 of IFRS 16 to the fact pattern in the tentative agenda decision when compared to the Agenda Decision [Economic Benefits from Use of a Windfarm \(IFRS 16\)](#).
15. A few respondents raised other comments, including:
- (a) a suggestion to clarify in the tentative agenda decision that market-settlement mechanics do not alter the assessment of control of use applying IFRS 16;
  - (b) a concern about the tentative agenda decision being applied too broadly; and
  - (c) a suggestion to consider other fact patterns.
16. For reasons explained in the March 2026 agenda paper, we:
- (a) disagreed with feedback suggesting the Committee has been inconsistent in its application of paragraph 21 of IFRS 16;

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<sup>1</sup> At the date of posting this agenda paper, there were no late comment letters.

- (b) concluded that undertaking a broader project initiative is unnecessary; and
- (c) recommended no action in response to other comments.

## The Committee's discussion and feedback

17. The Committee considered the feedback at its March 2026 meeting. All Committee members agreed with our analysis of feedback on the tentative agenda decision.
18. The Committee decided to make some minor changes to the wording of the tentative agenda decision for clarity and to avoid inappropriate application of the agenda decision to other fact patterns.
19. All 14 Committee members voted to finalise the agenda decision. The [appendix](#) to this paper includes the wording of the agenda decision approved by the Committee.

### Questions

Do you object to the Committee's:

- a. decision not to add a standard-setting project to the work plan?
- b. conclusion that the agenda decision does not add or change requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards?

## Appendix—The agenda decision

A1. The agenda decision below was approved by the Committee at its March 2026 meeting.

### **Economic Benefits from Use of a Battery under an Offtake Arrangement (IFRS 16 Leases)**

The Committee received requests about how an entity applies the requirements in paragraph B9(a) of IFRS 16—specifically, how an entity determines whether a customer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of an identified asset. The requests illustrate the question by describing a fact pattern involving a battery offtake arrangement.

#### **Fact pattern**

In the fact pattern described in the requests, a battery owner and an electricity retailer are registered participants in a gross pool electricity market.

The battery owner and the electricity retailer enter into a battery offtake arrangement. Under the terms and conditions of the offtake arrangement, the battery owner retains custody of the battery but is contractually obliged to operate it in accordance with the electricity retailer's instructions, which cover 100% of the capacity of the battery; the battery cannot be substituted. The electricity retailer's instructions would typically specify whether and when the battery owner charges and discharges the battery. The electricity retailer can instruct the battery owner to charge and discharge the battery throughout the period of use (including multiple times during each day).

In a gross pool electricity market, settlement of electricity transactions requires a single registered participant to transact with the market operator. As the battery owner is the registered participant, transactions occurring under the offtake arrangement are settled as follows:

- a. the electricity retailer pays a fixed amount to the battery owner over the period of the contract for the right to use the battery. This fixed amount reflects the size of the

battery and the period of use and is payable regardless of whether the battery is charged or discharged.

- b. the battery owner operates the battery according to the electricity retailer's instructions by buying and selling electricity and settles those transactions with the market operator. In accordance with the gross pool market structure, all transactions with the market operator occur at the spot price. The battery owner pays all resulting cash flows to (or receives all resulting cash flows from) the electricity retailer.
- c. the battery owner and the electricity retailer settle transactions in (a) and (b) periodically, net in cash.

Paragraph 9 of IFRS 16 states that 'a contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. Applying paragraph B9 of IFRS 16, to assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time an entity assesses whether, throughout the period of use, the customer has *both*:

- a. the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset; *and*
- b. the right to direct the use of that asset.

The fact pattern described in the requests assumes that the electricity retailer has the right to direct the use of the battery (paragraph B9(b) of IFRS 16). The requests ask whether, under the offtake arrangement, the electricity retailer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the battery (paragraph B9(a) of IFRS 16).

### **Applying IFRS 16 to the fact pattern**

In determining whether it has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of an identified asset (paragraph B9(a) of IFRS 16) and the right to direct the use of that asset (paragraph B9(b) of IFRS 16), an entity considers the terms and conditions of the contract and all relevant facts and circumstances.

*Does the electricity retailer have the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the battery (paragraph B9(a) of IFRS 16)?*

Paragraph B21 of IFRS 16 specifies that ‘a customer can obtain economic benefits from use of an asset directly or indirectly in many ways, such as by using, holding or sub-leasing the asset. The economic benefits from use of an asset include its primary output and by-products (including potential cash flows derived from these items), and other economic benefits from using the asset that could be realised from a commercial transaction with a third party.’

The Committee observed that, in the fact pattern described in the requests, the economic benefits from use of the battery are derived from its storage capability and capacity. The battery is used to store, and then release, electricity—and not to produce electricity.

The Committee also observed that the battery offtake arrangement provides the electricity retailer with the economic benefits derived from the battery storage because the electricity retailer has the exclusive right:

- a. to use the entire capacity of the battery throughout the period of use (for the duration of the arrangement); and
- b. to direct the battery owner as to whether, when and by how much to charge and discharge the battery.

Therefore, applying paragraph B21 of IFRS 16 to the fact pattern, the Committee concluded that the electricity retailer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the battery.

*Does the electricity retailer have the right to direct the use of the battery (paragraph B9(b) of IFRS 16)?*

The fact pattern described in the requests assumes that the electricity retailer has the right to direct the use of the battery. Therefore, the Committee did not analyse the application of paragraph B9(b) of IFRS 16 to the fact pattern.

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**Conclusion**

The Committee concluded that the principles and requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards provide an adequate basis for an electricity retailer, as the customer in a battery offtake arrangement as described in the requests, to determine whether it has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the battery. Consequently, the Committee decided not to add a standard-setting project to the work plan.