



Australian Government Charging Framework

Audience

This Factsheet is designed to assist **accountable authorities** and **staff of government entities** to understand the new Australian Government Charging Framework.



At a glance

- The Australian Government Charging Framework (the Framework) applies to activities where the Australian Government charges the non-government sector.
- The Framework provides that where an individual or organisation creates the demand for a government activity they should generally be charged for that activity, unless the Government has decided to fund the activity.
- The Framework commenced 1 July 2015 and applies to all government entities in the General Government Sector.
- The Framework applies to all new charging activities from 1 July 2015. Existing charging activities should be reviewed against the Framework as part of the rolling five-year portfolio charging reviews (available at www.finance.gov.au).
- The Framework incorporates and builds on the existing cost recovery framework and applies to:
 - regulatory charging activities
 - charging activities involving access to a public resources, public infrastructure and/or equipment
 - commercial charging activities, including the sale of

government goods or services, and charging for advertising and sponsorship.

- The Framework aims to provide a consistent approach to guide policy development and help determine when it is appropriate to charge for a government activity.
- The Framework consists of:
 - a charging policy statement that provides the rationale for identifying, developing and implementing charging activities
 - charging considerations to guide decision-making on charging
 - charging principles that guide the design, implementation and review of charging activities.



What you need to do

- For each charging activity, entities should consider:
 - whether policy approval is required from the Australian Government, noting that it is necessary for all regulatory charging and other material or sensitive charging activities
 - what statutory authority is required
 - whether there is a need to align expenses and revenue, which is a requirement for regulatory charging activities
 - maintaining appropriate up-to-date records, including the level of publicly available documentation and reporting.



- Entities should engage with relevant stakeholders, including those who pay charges.
- Entities must continue to apply the Cost Recovery Guidelines to regulatory charging activities, including undertaking a Charging Risk Assessment.
- Departments of State must coordinate a portfolio review of existing and potential charging activities consistent with the Portfolio Charging Review Schedule (available at www.finance.gov.au).



Roles and responsibilities

Accountable authorities are responsible for:

- ensuring that charging activities comply with the Framework, other government policies and relevant legislation
- continuing to apply the Cost Recovery Guidelines to regulatory charging activities
- engaging with stakeholders
- certifying CRISs for regulatory charging activities.

Staff of government entities are responsible for:

- briefing accountable authorities and responsible Ministers on their roles and responsibilities in relation to charging activities
- considering charging as an option, as part of preparing any policy proposal
- where relevant developing policy proposals, for charging activities
- preparing a charging risk assessment for all regulatory charging activities

- documenting regulatory activities in a CRIS
- managing charging activities, including monitoring, evaluating and implementing changes as required
- engaging with stakeholders
- reporting on the financial and non-financial performance of charging activities.

In relation to portfolio charging reviews:

- accountable authorities** are responsible for contributing to portfolio charging reviews
- accountable authorities of Departments of State** are responsible for:
 - o developing a portfolio charging review report
 - o providing the report to the responsible minister and copying it to the Finance Minister
- staff of government entities** are responsible for participating in portfolio charging reviews.



Useful resources

- [Australian Government Charging Framework](#)
- [Cost recovery implementation statement template](#)
- [Charging risk assessment template](#)
- [Portfolio charging review schedule](#)



Contacts

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