



Australian Government Charging Framework Fact Sheet

Audience

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


At a glance

- The Charging Framework applies to activities where the Australian Government charges the non-government sector.
- The Charging Framework provides that where an individual or organisation creates the demand for a government activity, unless the Government has decided to fund the activity.
- The Charging Framework commenced 1 July 2015 and applies to all government entities in the General Government Sector.
- The Charging Framework applies to all new charging activities from 1 July 2015. Existing charging activities should be reviewed against the Charging Framework as part of the rolling five-year Portfolio Charging Reviews (available at www.finance.gov.au).
- The Charging 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 Charging 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 Charging 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 Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines (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 Charging 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:
 - developing a Portfolio Charging Review report
 - 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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