



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

DVS DOCUMENT
VERIFICATION
SERVICE



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION SERVICE (DVS)

POLICY ON GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR CHARGING FOR DVS

VERSION 2



Context

To determine whether a government entity will be treated as private sector the DVS will apply the COAG competitive neutrality policy:

Competitive Neutrality Policy and Principles¹

- 3 The objective of competitive neutrality policy is the elimination of resource allocation distortions arising out of the public ownership of entities engaged in significant business activities: Government businesses should not enjoy any net competitive advantage simply as a result of their public sector ownership. These principles only apply to the business activities of publicly owned entities, not to the non-business, non-profit activities of these entities.

The aim of this policy is to ensure competitive neutrality is maintained when offering access to the DVS.

Deciding who pays

The cost of providing the DVS to government agencies is met by the nine Australian governments. Providing DVS to business is cost recovered from consumers of the service. This applies to government bodies that operate as businesses.

The onus is on government entities that operate a business to provide evidence to the DVS Manager that they are not subject to Competitive Neutrality measures and therefore should not be charged for DVS use.

Additional information

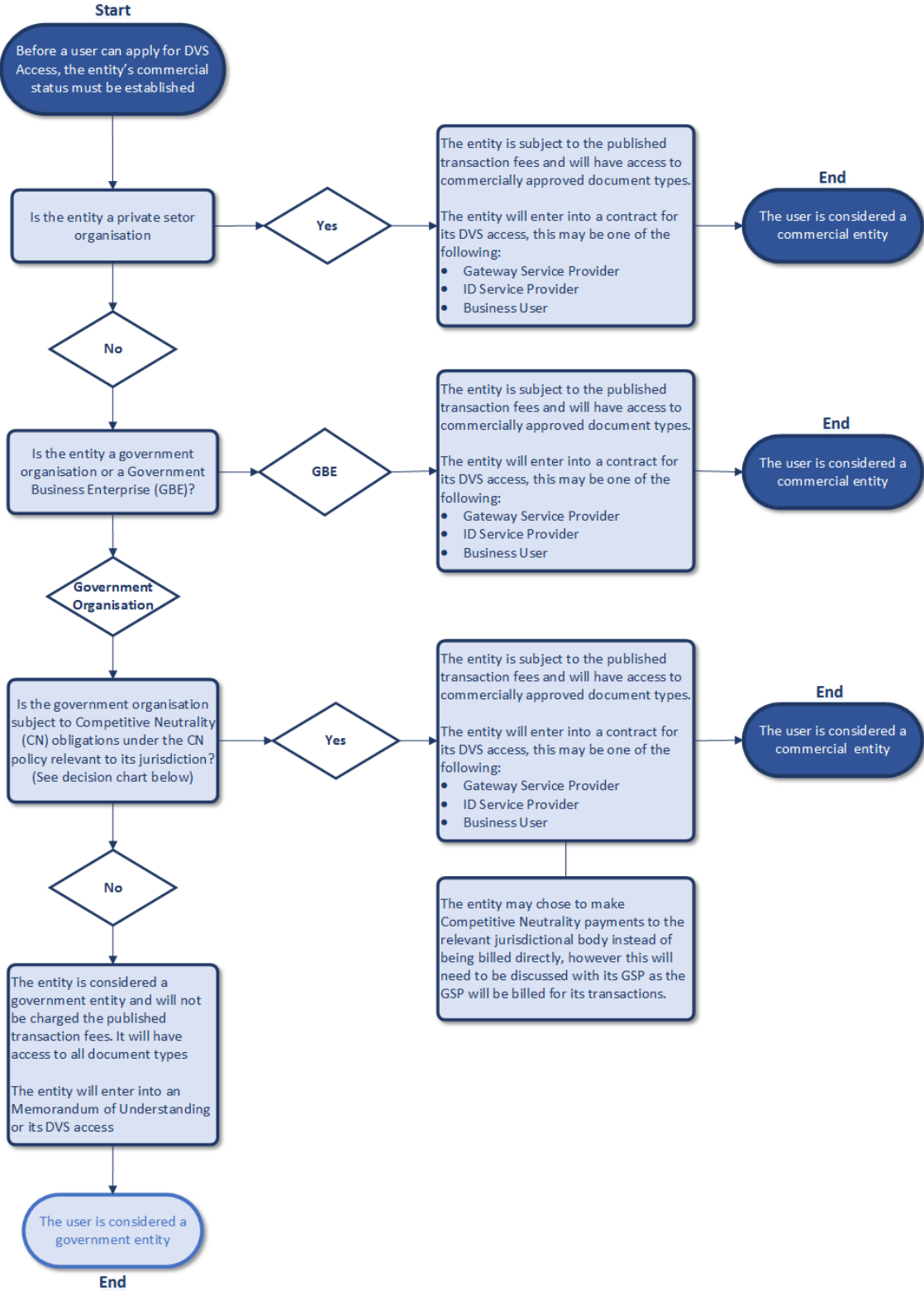
Additional information to assist with decision making on Competitive Neutrality can be found [here](#). A list of contacts points in each jurisdiction is available on page 49.

A list of Commonwealth Government Business Enterprises' and their Competitive Neutrality status can be found [here](#) from page 23 onwards.

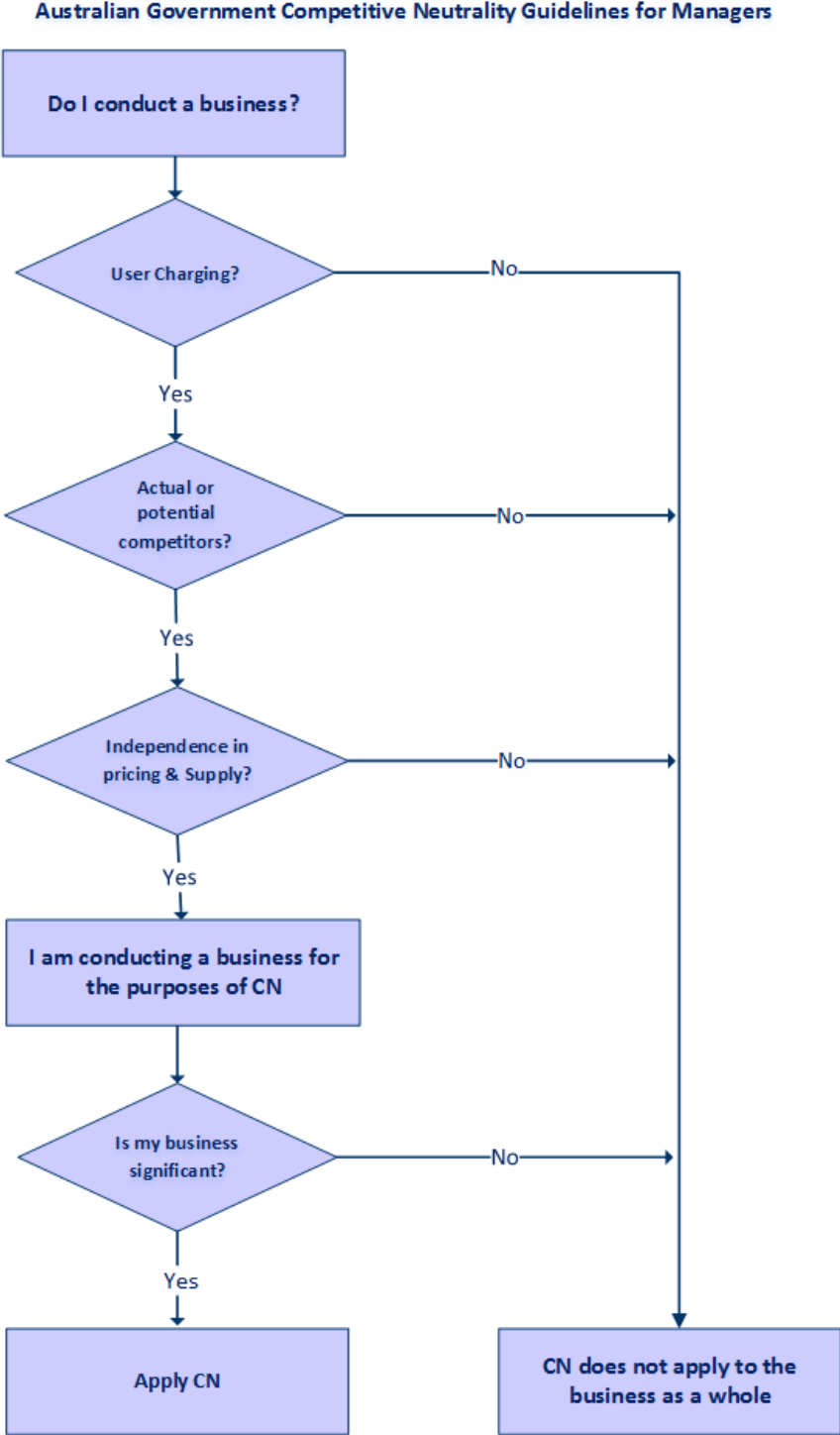
¹ Competition Principles Agreement Tuesday, 11 April 1995 (As amended to 13 April 2007)
[COAG - Competition Principles Agreement](#)

The following table details the decision-making process around whether a user entity is considered business or government for DVS purposes:

Applying Competitive Neutrality to DVS Users



The following diagram is taken from the Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Guidelines for Managers (Financial Management Guidance No.9) and has been included to assist entities in understanding whether they are conducting a business:



Taken from:
 Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Guidelines for Managers (Financial Management Guidance No.9)