

Policy frameworks

The following frameworks are the foundations to develop and implement trade reforms across government. They set a consistent approach for the way government agencies interact to deliver benefits to business. The frameworks operate within existing legislation. There will be further consultation where legislative change is required.

Trade Identity Policy Framework

The STS Taskforce, in partnership with key cross-border trade agencies including ABF and DAFF, is developing a Trade Identity Policy Framework. It will provide policy guidance to drive greater effectiveness for government in facilitating legitimate trade and protecting Australia's border. It will also help relevant state, territory, and international governments, as well as trade participants to understand the future direction for Australian trade identity.

What we have heard

During 2022 and 2023, we asked businesses and trade agencies about the pain points

associated with current identity management processes in cross-border trade.

Businesses highlighted digital identification as a key reform to simplify cross-border trade identification and improve efficiency through reducing the need to prove who they are multiple times. They also raised the need for government to manage their identity information securely, and in line with privacy legislation. It was suggested that the adoption of data standards and developing mutual recognition frameworks with international trading partners was important in building streamlined identity processes.

Framework Principles

The framework principles (see box 1) provide the foundation and ongoing guidance for current reforms such as ABF's Foundations to enable the single trade environment and DAFF's *Digital services to take Farmers to Markets*. They will also support development of future policies, processes, and systems and alignment to the government's new *Digital ID Bill 2024*.

Box 1: Trade Identity Policy Framework Principles



Convenient – Trade identity processes and solutions are convenient, accessible and easy to use. Participants only need to 'tell us once' their identity information.



Secure – A whole-of-trade approach to identity management ensures trade participants' data is secure and protected through security and privacy controls.



Inclusive – All trade participants requiring a trade identity, credential or accreditation can apply for this through a common and consistent process to support inclusive trade.



Voluntary – Digital and non-digital pathways will be available to access government trade services.



Optimised – Trade identity requirements, policies and processes are optimised to facilitate legitimate trade, protect Australia's borders, and are fit for the unique needs of a cross-border trade environment.



Proportionate – A whole-of-trade approach to identity processes and solutions considers the complexity and nuance of the cross-border trade environment, the different variables that influence risk, and appropriately scale the level of identity information required from entities.



Connected – Harmonised and streamlined whole-of-government trade identity processes and solutions enable a more connected view of trade participants, including their entity relationships, relationship to goods and consignments, and trade transactions, across the cross-border trade environment.



Interoperable – Identity processes, policies and solutions are designed to be integrated and interoperable across multiple platforms, services, governments, industry and trading partners, supporting mutual recognition and improved border efficiencies.

Next steps

This policy framework guides current reforms and sets the foundation for future regulatory, process and digital reform that will directly impact the experiences of business identifying themselves to government when conducting trade.

This framework may assist with the design and implementation of reforms relating to identity which will continue to be co-designed and consulted with stakeholders ahead of any changes.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We are seeking feedback from businesses on the framework principles and any other issues to support government designing and implementing reforms relating to identity.

Question 1

Please quantify, in time or money, how current identity processes are impacting your business and factors (if any) impacting your adoption of new identity capabilities.

Question 2

How would the proposed principles for trade identity improve the efficiency or effectiveness of cross-border trade for your business?

Question 3

How might the proposed principles better address the identity-related issues you may have experienced in conducting cross-border trade?

Question 4

What factors would your business consider in adopting any new identity capabilities, such as digital identification?

Question 5

What are your expectations for improvements to the way trade identity information is collected and managed?

Question 6

What examples of identity-related innovations in other sectors or countries should Australia consider?

To have your say, visit: <https://app.converlens.com/austrade/simplifiedtrade>