

Minutes

27th March 2018 at 1:00PM

Present: John Swinson (Chair), Professor Andrew Christie, Brett Fenton, and Narelle Clark.

Meeting commenced at 1:00pm

John welcomed Panel members to the meeting. The key issues discussed were:

1. Panel representation

John Swinson informed Panel members that Paul Zawa, ACCC was required to resign from the Panel due the significant investment of time that has been required to date, and the anticipated forward commitment involved. John Swinson noted issues regarding the representation on the Panel, and canvased Panel members' opinions about additional representatives.

Professor Andrew Christie expressed concern about whether the Panel would be able to meet current deadlines.

Luke Summers agreed with the concerns raised by Professor Christie and noted that the size and composition of the Panel was inappropriate for the body of work.

Narelle Clark Joined the meeting at 1:41pm.

Panel members agreed that it would be appropriate to replace Mr Zawa with another government representative. It would also be appropriate to recruit a business representative to the Panel.

John Swinson said that he would make a request of the ACCC for a replacement for Mr Zawa, and to seek out a business representative.

The Panel members suggested an amendment to the current timetable to allow for more time and resources. Brett Fenton suggested amending the current timetable to allow the Panel to present a model on direct registration and consult more broadly. John Swinson noted the Panels concerns and advised Panel members that he would inform Cameron Boardman, auDA CEO, of the issues raised.

2. Draft Rules – Direct Registration

The Panel discussed whether the Direct Registration draft rules should be released for public consultation. Luke Summers expressed concern that the draft rules did not accurately reflect

stakeholder feedback. Panel members noted that wider stakeholder engagement was required, and agreed that an explanatory statement should be released for public consultation.

3. Eligibility for .com.au space

Panel members discussed the eligibility rules that should apply for the .com.au space. The Panel agreed that the space should be a strong, well defined and hierarchical space. Brett Fenton stated that Australian internet users do not want less restriction in .com.au.

The Panel agreed that that, at a high level, the .com.au space should not be used for websites that:

- Have false and misleading information;
- scam customers;
- pass off as a business (when it is not a business), and;
- spamming.

John Swinson advised that the working group will convene after Easter to further consider the issues in greater detail.

4. Eligibility for .au

John Swinson canvassed Panel members opinions about what eligibility rules should apply for .au. The Panel agreed that the Australian connection requirement should be the sole criteria for eligibility, and there should be no allocation rules. Brett Fenton noted that as a principle, differentiation between the spaces should be appropriately defined. Luke Summers was not in favour of an unregulated space and expressed concern for consumer protection issues that could arise due to 'bad behaviour' in the namespace.

Panel members agreed that names registered in .au should not be registered for the primary purpose of resale. The Panel noted that the word 'primary' needs to be appropriately defined.

Other business

Due to time constraints item 2 on the agenda will be held over to the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting is TBA.

The Panel noted that it was attending a consultation meeting with government representatives at 3.15pm that day.

The meeting closed at 3pm