

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft report.

Unfortunately, neither of the concerns myself and several others have been addressed by the Panel.

.auDA should not permit the monetisation of domain names in the .au direct namespace. The .au direct namespace was introduced as a trusted, uniquely Australian digital identifier. Allowing domain monetisation in this namespace undermines that purpose. The Draft Report acknowledges concerns about misuse and consumer harm, yet concludes that prohibiting monetisation is not "justified or practical".

The Panel's suggestion to increase audits and compliance checks does not address the core issue. Monetised .au direct domains do not contribute to a healthy namespace. They dilute trust for Australian internet users.

The Panel has made no recommendations on improving privacy for Australians. In this day and age better privacy protections need to be in place. The Panel needs to consider improving the privacy practices for domain holders to align with international best practice. Australians should be given the choice of hiding their information from public WHOIS records, while still being contactable (potentially allowing auDA to run a system to act as an intermediary). The Panel also needs to consider requiring that registrars provide non-invasive methods for proving eligibility to register domains. Australians should not be required to send photocopies of government documents or sensitive information to prove eligibility.

The .au namespace should not lag behind international standards, nor should it require registrants to trade away their personal information simply to participate in the digital economy. A modern, trusted national namespace must treat privacy as a foundational principle, not an afterthought.

Kind regards

As previously mentioned, please keep these correspondents anonymous.