

From: [First Nations Digital Inclusion](#)
To: [LReview](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - .au Licensing Rules Review: Draft Report consultation open [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 9 July 2026 3:13:58 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

I am writing on behalf of the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group in relation to review of .au licensing rules. The Advisory Group would be happy to meet with you to discuss these matters further if that would be useful.

The Advisory Group recognises the importance of undertaking this review to ensure the rules are fair and effective, and ensuring there is trust and confidence in the allocation of .au domain names. However, the Advisory Group is concerned that some elements of the proposed approach may have unintended consequences for First Nations people and businesses, particularly if domain monetisation is allowed. In effect, this may mean that valuable First Nations business names, place names, art and cultural terms, or tourism terms may be acquired by investors before First Nations organisations can acquire them.

From a First Nations perspective, the key issue is whether the .au licensing framework adequately protects First Nations identity, language, cultural authority, and economic participation in the digital economy. The draft report largely treats the domain space as a commercial and consumer-trust issue, whereas many First Nations organisations would also view it as an issue of cultural governance and self-determination.

These concerns could be mitigated by ensuring special consideration for First Nations organisations and business, including establishing a process for identifying culturally significant First Nations names/terms and requiring consultation with Traditional Owners before allocating a domain name which uses those terms. It would also be helpful, more generally, if a First Nations representation could be interest in future .au policy reviews or governance processes. The Advisory Group also recommends creating a dispute pathway specifically for Indigenous cultural identity and misrepresentation issues.

Please let me know if you would like to meet with the co-chairs of the Advisory Group, Ms Dot West and Professor Lyndon Ormond-Parker, to discuss the above issues further.

Cheers,

Nat

Nat Peters Jones

Digital Inclusion Team / First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group Secretariat

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Phone: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]

firstnationsdigitalinclusion@infrastructure.gov.au

www.digitalinclusion.gov.au



**FIRST NATIONS
DIGITAL INCLUSION
ADVISORY GROUP**

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.
I recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.
I pay my respects to Elders past and present and to all First Nations Australians.

OFFICIAL