

Agenda

Meeting	Licencing Rules Review Panel	
Date / Time	Wednesday 10 September 2025/ 10am to 1:30pm AEST	
Location	Level 22, Level 8 Exhibition St, Melbourne	
Attending	Matt Healy, Panel Chair Ross Creelman, Panel Member Dr Selvi Kannan, Panel Member Erhan Karabardak, Panel Member Ian Kelly, Panel Member Anthony Peake, Panel Member Niluka Welungoda, Panel Member	Bruce Tonkin, CEO Sharon Copeland-Smith, COO Barbara Schade, SCPO Linda Brown, Co Sec Sonia Joksimovic, Co Sec
Apologies		

	Item	Who	Action	Paper	Time	
1.	Acknowledgment of Country	Chair	Noting	N	10:00	(2)
2.	Welcome, attendance, apologies	Chair	Noting	N	10:02	(3)
3.	Introductions	Chair	Noting	N	10:05	(15)
4.	Overview of auDA	CEO	Noting	Y	10:20	(30)
5.	Context and Foundation Documents	SCPO	Noting	N	10:50	(45)
	Break				11:35	(10)
6.	Introduction to the Review	Chair	Noting	Y	11:45	(45)
7.	Meeting close					
	LUNCH				12:30	(60)

Induction Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Licensing Rules Review Panel Induction	
Date / Time	Wednesday 10 September 2025, 10 to 1:30pm AEST	
Location	Level 22, 8 Exhibition St, Melbourne and Teams Meeting	
Present	<div> <div> Matt Healy, Panel Chair Ross Creelman, Panel Member Dr Selvi Kannan, Panel Member Erhan Karabardak, Panel Member Ian Kelly, Panel Member Anthony Peake, Panel Member Niluka Welungoda, Panel Member </div> <div> Bruce Tonkin, CEO Sharon Copeland-Smith, COO Barbara Schade, SCPO Linda Brown, Co Sec Sonia Joksimovic, Co Sec </div> </div>	
Apologies	NA	

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, noting the lands had never been ceded, and paid respects to elders past and present.

2. Welcome, attendance and apologies

The Chair, Matt Healy, welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that it was a general induction for the panel in preparation for undertaking the review of the .au Licensing Rules.

3. Introductions and Arrangements

The Chair invited Panel Members and auDA staff to introduce themselves. Panel Members gave a summary of their background, current role and interest and/or expertise in reviewing the .au Licensing Rules. He confirmed there would be a public announcement about the establishment and composition of the Panel.

The Chair advised the Panel is independent and operated at arms length from auDA but needed the support of auDA to carry out its functions. He confirmed that any questions for auDA that Panel Members may have should be directed to the auDA Secretariat via the Chair. Similarly, any requests for media comment should come to the Chair. He noted that Barbara Schade was attending in her capacity as subject matter expert.

The Chair spoke about the composition of the Panel noting that as a group they brought representative voices on the Terms of Reference, each member brought the particular view of a range of interest groups including that of auDA Members, but they needed to be



balanced and consider all perspectives when forming their views on the Rules and issues raised.

The Chair confirmed that that he is seeking a resource with a legal, policy and/or research background to help the Panel with drafting.

4. Overview of auDA

auDA CEO, Bruce Tonkin, provided an overview of the history of the Domain Name System (DNS) and development of arrangements, policies and rules governing the DNS in Australia. The original policies for .au were developed by Robert Elz at the University of Melbourne in 1985. Bruce noted this is the tenth names Policy Review Panel.

Bruce discussed the Allocation and Eligibility Rules governing who can hold an .au domain name, types of domain name users and domain name licence holders including investors, the types of issues and complaints that arise (contested names, fraud, DNS abuse), options for dispute resolution, the factors auDA considers when applying the rules and remedies. Bruce noted that the rules and level of regulation are unique to Australia. The Panel noted the survey auDA is currently conducting on contested .au direct names and other data that auDA could make available to the panel to assist their review.

Bruce covered auDA's responsibilities under the Terms of Endorsement – operate a stable, secure and reliable .au domain, administer a licensing regime for .au domain names based on multi-stakeholder processes that are transparent, responsive, accountable, accessible and efficient, and advocate for and actively participate in multi-stakeholder internet governance processes domestically, regionally and internationally. With principles that include engaging and consulting with government, support trust and confidence in the .au for the benefit of all Australians, promoting principles of competition, fair trading and consumer protection, supporting fair and transparent multi-stakeholder engagement, and supporting a diverse membership that reflects the Australian community.

5. Context and Foundation Documents

Barbara Schade, auDA's subject matter expert on the Licensing Rules and compliance, provided the context for the review noting that the .au Domain Administration Rules: Licensing (.au Licensing Rules), together with the Registrar Agreement and the Registrar Rules, comprise the Licensing Framework for the .au. The .au Licensing Rules form part of the agreement between auDA and registrars. The .au Licensing Rules are part of the licensing agreement between registrars and registrants. The .au Licensing Rules set out auDA's role and responsibilities in licensing .au domain names.

Barbara noted that the current .au Licensing rules came into effect in April 2021, following a Policy Review that commenced in 2017 to consider the consolidation of twenty-six licensing policies and develop an implementation policy for .au direct. The .au direct namespace was launched in March 2022. Barbara provided an overview of the six foundation documents related to the Review:



1. auDA's Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government
2. .au Licensing Rules
3. auDA corporate policy: *Process for the Development and Review of auDA Published Policies*
4. NETmundial+10 Multistakeholder statement (Sao Paulo multistakeholder guidelines)
5. auDA Engagement Charter
6. Compliance Posture.

Barbara noted that the Compliance Posture informs how auDA applies the .au Licensing Rules, with fairness as a guiding principle and a three-step process – communicate and educate, guide and facilitate, enforcement action. Barbara discussed the types of outcomes available and external dispute resolution options. The Chair confirmed that the auDRP dispute resolution process did not form part of this Review process.

Barbara referred the Panel to the *Process for the Development and Review of auDA Published Policies*, which sets out principles, operating and consultation procedures, Panel recommendations and the auDA managed policy development and auDA Board approval processes.

6. Introduction to the Review

The Chair emphasised that the Panel should keep top of mind that Licensing Rules and any outputs are for the benefit of all Australians, and that any changes made are via multistakeholder processes. There is also a requirement to be transparent and publish agendas and minutes of the Panel.

The Chair noted that the Panel would hold monthly hybrid meetings, the agenda and minutes of which would be published on the auDA website. There would be a report to each auDA Board meeting. He was expecting draft recommendations to be completed by January 2026, followed by another round of consultation and then a final report.

The Panel discussed the draft Engagement plan, stakeholder groups (government, regulators, consumers, registrars, investors, small business etc) and opportunities to join existing activities (auIGF, Registrar Summit, monthly registrar webinars, member webinars, Investor webinars etc) to promote the Review and consult on issues. The CEO noted it was an option for the Panel to develop its own surveys in addition to the current auDA survey on Contested Names issues. The Panel discussed the format for engaging with stakeholders.

Actions:

- auDA to provide aggregated complaints data, DNS abuse data and Contested Names survey results
- Ask Registrars for data on complaints received
- Ask Registrars, particularly larger ones, to promote the review and seek issues from their resellers



- Share Context and Foundation slide deck with the Panel
- Share main Domain Investor Blogs with Panel
- Publish Stakeholder Plan and Project Plan when finalised
- Panel participation at the aulGF on 24 September 2025 – lunchtime session (MH, IK, RC, AP, tbc)
- Develop indicative options for key issues identified in ToR 1, 2 and 3 for November Panel Meeting.

Next meeting dates:

- Wednesday 22 October 2025 – 10am to 12 Midday
- Wednesday 19 November 2025 – 1pm to 3pm

7. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 1:30pm

Signed as a true and correct record.

Matt Healy

Chair

Date: