

Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Licensing Rules Review Panel	
Date / Time	Monday 20 July 2026, 1 to 3pm AEST	
Location	Teams Meeting	
Present	Matt Healy, Panel Chair Ross Creelman, Panel Member (vc) Dr Selvi Kannan, Panel Member (vc) Erhan Karabardak, Panel Member Ian Kelly, Panel Member Anthony Peake, Panel Member Niluka Welungoda, Panel Member	Shilpa Singh, Panel Support Linda Brown, Co Sec (vc) Sonia Joksimovic, Co Sec Barbara Schade, auDA Licensing SME <i>(part attendance)</i>
Apologies		

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land he was on, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and paid respects to elders past and present. He shared his recent experience on the land of the Ngara people including learning about the pre-European indigenous stone quarries.

2. Welcome, attendance and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that all Panel Members were in attendance. The Chair confirmed the purpose of the meeting was to consider the draft report and consultation feedback, see if agreement could be reached on the recommendations and work towards finalising the report.

3. Phase 2 Consultation

3.1 Consultation Summary

The Panel noted the ThinkPlace Consultation Summary and observed that even though attendance at the consultations was low the diverse views made for a good debate. The Panel noted that the explanation of external review led to some confusion amongst participants. The Panel also noted that there was an administrative error in the draft report as a recommendation number wasn't assigned to the WHO's recommendation so it was not included in the summary of recommendations but it was picked up in the second consultation and could be brought through from the business rules to the Policy.



3.2 Phase 2 Submissions

The Panel noted that a good number of submissions were received from a diverse range of stakeholders. The Panel discussed the language used to describe scams and whether it should be limited to scams rather than scam like to assist focus. The Panel Chair noted auDA CEO's position that auDA would act on scams based on advice from an appropriate authority.

4. auDA Audit Program

The Panel noted the presentation from auDA on the auDA Audit processes relevant to the .au Licensing Rules Review including DNS Abuse, Eligibility and Allocation, particularly in relation to monetisation. The Panel noted that Eligibility audits are the most common audit and in contrast to Allocation audits, can be done at scale.

Barbara Schade, auDA Licensing SME left the meeting.

5. Draft Report – Review in context of Consultation feedback

The Panel discussed the Recommendations to be included in the Final Report in the following order:

RECOMMENDATION 9. Exemption from eligibility rules to retain com.au after retirement (Section 6.7.4 of Draft Report)

Recommendation: The Panel Recommends adoption of flexibility within the compliance posture to facilitate a Registrant transition to another appropriate namespace once they have ended their commercial operations and they no longer meet the com.au eligibility.

The Panel discussed options available to people transitioning to retirement and how auDA could assist.

The Panel agreed not to recommend a change to the rules to allow an exemption to rules to retain com.au after retirement. The Panel agreed to add further mention of the opportunity for auDA to assist retiring registrants with options to maintain or obtain the appropriate domain name for their needs.

RECOMMENDATION 7. Including scams within the scope of the .au Licensing Rules (Section 6.7.2 of Draft Report)

Recommendation: The Panel recommends that the current approach to scams under the .au Licensing Rules be retained, and further, auDA should work with the National Anti-Scam Centre (NASC) to continually refine the approach to dealing with scams in .au.

The Panel agreed with the Recommendation.



RECOMMENDATION 6. Domain Name Licence lifecycle settings (Section 6.6 of Draft Report)

Recommendation: The Panel recommends amending the following rules regarding the Domain Name Licence lifecycle:

- a) Remove the 90-days renewal window within Rule 2.14.1 of the .au Licencing Rules and allow registrants to renew domain licences anytime during the lifetime of the Domain Name Licence until the expiration of the licence;*
- b) Increase the cooling-off period from 3 days to 5 days in relation to Rule 2.15.4 of the .au Licencing Rules;*
- c) Amend the redemption periods and apply a consistent deletion period with 30 days redemption period (to standardise along the lines of international common practices); and*
- d) Increase the pending/hold period from 1 day to 5 days (time between the redemption and purging of the domain name).*

The Panel agreed with the Recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 5. Complaints process for domain name audits (Section 6.5 of Draft Report)

Recommendation 5.1: The Panel recommends that the complaints process in Part 3 of the .au Licencing Rules include complaints in relation to audits performed by auDA.

Recommendation 5.2: The Panel recommends that the scope of the 'affected person' is broadened appropriate to Rules 3.6.1 and 3.8.1 of the .au Licencing Rules such that they can demonstrate an interest in the domain name adequately.

The Panel agreed with the Recommendations 5.1 and 5.2 with the addition of extending the time period a complainant has to request a review of a decision from two days to seven days, subject to the Chair confirming any impact.

RECOMMENDATION 4. Fraudulent and bad faith registrations and Reserved Names (Section 6.4 of Draft Report)

Recommendation 4.1: Remove the requirement under Rule 2.6.7 of the .au Licencing Rules for auDA to publish the Reserved List.

Recommendation 4.2: auDA should publish the criteria on which it decides to put a domain name in a Reserved List, and release aggregate metrics, such as number of Reserved Names, number of reversals that are being or have been reviewed, and average time taken from detection to reservation over periods of time.

The Panel agreed with Recommendation 4.1 and 4.2.



RECOMMENDATION 3. Contested .au direct domain names (Section 6.3 of Draft Report)

Recommendation: The Panel recommends continuation of the current process for the contested .au direct name allocation process.

The Panel agreed with the Recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 1. Monetisation of Domain Names (Section 6.1 of Draft Report)

Recommendation: No change to the current approach that allows domain monetisation in the com.au, net.au and .au direct namespace. auDA to consider increasing the level of audits and compliance checks on monetised sites to ensure they are not used to facilitate DNS Abuse.

The Panel agreed with the Recommendation subject to removing reference to audits.

RECOMMENDATION 2. Allocation rules for com.au and net.au namespaces (Section 6.2 of Draft Report)

Options: Eligibility rules for .au domain names determine who may have a Domain Name Licence in .au. The allocation rules determine what name an eligible Registrant may have as their Domain Name in their Domain Name Licence. The Panel seeks further views from stakeholders on the three options proposed below to address concerns about compliance with the Domain Name allocation rules:

- 1. Increase compliance checks in relation to the current rules*
- 2. Clarify the 'Services' definition and pay per click arrangements and adopt additional administrative rules related to the use of monetised sites*
- 3. Delete sub para (f) from section 2.4.4 (2) of the .au Licensing Rules.*

The Panel discussed each of the options in an attempt to reach consensus as per the requirements of the *Process for the Development and Review of auDA Published Policies* but couldn't agree on which option to put forward so moved to a Panel vote with the following results recorded:

Option 1. Erhan Karabardak, Niluka Welungoda (2)

Option 2. No votes (0)

Option 3. Ian Kelly, Selvi Kannan, Ross Creelman, Matt Healy (4)

Anthony Peake abstained from voting.

Therefore the decision to include option 3 in the Final Report is carried.

Erhan Karabardak (EK) requested the inclusion of the dissenting view in the Final Report.

6. Next Steps and Meeting Dates

The Panel agreed the following timetable to finalise the Report:



- Panel Chair to draft the Final Report with the dissenting view on Recommendation 2 drafted by EK and distributed to the Panel by 30 July
- The Panel to provide feedback on the draft by 9 August
- Finalise Report and provide to auDA for the Board

7. Minutes of previous meeting

The Panel noted the minutes of 25 May 2026.

8. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 3pm

Signed as a true and correct record

Matt Healy

Chair

Date: