

WHOIS Search Results

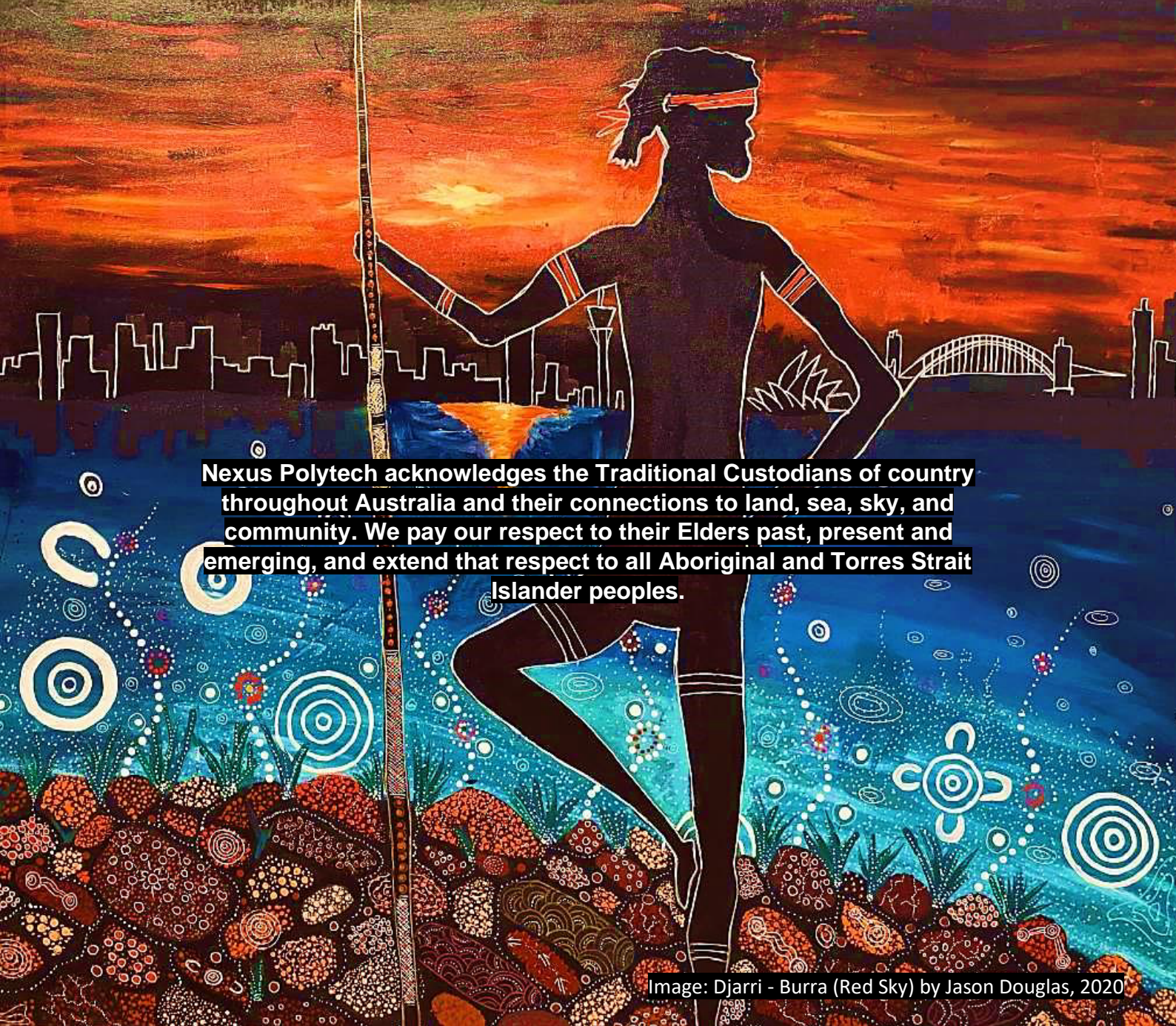
```
Domain Name: nxpt.au
Registry Domain ID: c87a919831dc411990acd0b91a243c62-AU
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.auda.org.au
Registrar URL: https://synergywholesale.com/partner-lookup
Last Modified: 2026-03-13T05:08:09Z
Registrar Name: Synergy Wholesale Accreditations Pty Ltd
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: registry-abuse@nexigen.digital
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +61.383999483
Reseller Name:
Status: serverRenewProhibited https://identitydigital.au/whois-
Status Reason: Not Currently Eligible For Renewal
Registrant Contact ID: 9cc8250ea49f48619275f3fddc9ec8b2-AU
Registrant Contact Name: Domains Admin
Registrant Contact Email: domains@nexuspoly.tech
Tech Contact ID: 9cc8250ea49f48619275f3fddc9ec8b2-AU
Tech Contact Name: Domains Admin
Tech Contact Email: domains@nexuspoly.tech
Name Server: ns1.nexuspoly.tech
Name Server: ns2.nexuspoly.tech
Name Server: ns3.nxpt.au
Name Server: ns4.nxpt.au
DNSSEC: unsigned
Registrant: Nexus Polytech Pty Limited
Registrant ID: ABN 70645628422
Eligibility Type: Company
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2026-03-20T02:40:25Z <<<
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Response to the .au Licensing Rules Review Consultation Paper

31 March 2026



NEXUS POLYTECH



Nexus Polytech acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, sky, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Image: Djarri - Burra (Red Sky) by Jason Douglas, 2020

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Introduction

This is a submission by Nexus Polytech Pty Limited in response to the consultation paper published by the .au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) titled *.au Licensing Rules Review* on November 2025.

Nexus Polytech is a solutions architecture and consultancy service provider that works with domain names and the domain name system on a day-to-day basis.

The integrity of the .au domain namespace is critical to maintaining a commercially conducive and safe internet for Australian businesses and the wider Australian internet community.

As the regulator of the .au domain namespace, auDA's role is not just to regulate for the benefit of domain registrars and registrants, but also for the benefit of the wider Australian internet community as a whole.

In our view, the .au namespace is a generally well-regulated domain namespace that generally caters to the needs of Australian businesses and Australian internet users by providing structure and rules while not limiting opportunity. There are areas in which the .au namespace could be strengthened, and we explore some of those areas in this submission.

Executive Summary

Minor adjustments to the allocation rules can help stop bad-faith registrations

We support maintaining section 2.4.4(2) of the allocation rules, but modifying 2.4.4(2)(f), which appears to be the major source of illegitimate and/or bad-faith registrations. Removing allocation criteria 2.4.4(2)(f)(i), 2.4.4(2)(f)(ii), and 2.4.4(2)(f)(iv) would strike a balance that provides sufficient flexibility and protection, and limit domain name monetisation.

Ending domain name monetisation

We support the explicit disallowing of domain name monetisation under the domain licensing rules. Domain name monetisation is a bad-faith practice that diminishes the integrity of the .au namespace and creates barriers to growing the online economy. It is a malignant ecosystem that will continue to grow due to its self-perpetuating business model, resulting in negative outcomes for Australian businesses and users.

Domestic tribunal to resolve contested domains on a case-by-case basis

We propose utilising a specialised domestic tribunal to resolve contested domains on a case-by-case basis to ensure procedural fairness for all parties and to protect intellectual property rights. This process would be funded by application fees based on the size of the parties, so as to ensure equitable access to the process. Of the proposed options, we support maintaining the current approach. We oppose utilising an arbitrary criterion such as registration date to resolve contested domains.

The reserved domain list should not be public

The reserved names list should not be published on the auDA's website. The evolving nature of cybersecurity is a game of cat-and-mouse between threat actors and system defenders. Users are better served if problematic domains are added to the reserve list as they are identified and before they are registered by threat actors, else threat actors could identify potential combinations that have not been identified and register those domain names for sophisticated phishing attacks.

Broadest application of natural justice

As the regulator of the .au domain namespace, auDA's role is to serve the broader Australian internet community. The positions that auDA has adopted which provides natural justice to parties to a dispute and broaden the definition of affected persons should be codified into the licensing rules.

Align .au timeframes with gTLD timeframes

The gTLD timeframes are longer than the .au timeframes, and therefore aligning the .au timeframes with the gTLD will increase the opportunity for .au registrants to preserve expiring domain names, protect their existing domain names, and recover expired domain names.

Questions Asked

Question 1: Should the allocation rules require a closer match between a com.au or net.au domain name and registrant's name or business name, or should there be less requirements?

Response: The requirements should be amended to maintain flexibility for legitimate registrants while limiting opportunities for bad-faith registrations. In our view, this is achieved by keeping 2.4.4(2) but modifying 2.4.4(2)(f), which appears to be the major source of illegitimate and/or bad-faith registrations.

Removing allocation criteria 2.4.4(2)(f)(i), 2.4.4(2)(f)(ii), and 2.4.4(2)(f)(iv) would, in our view, go a long way to resolving a significant portion of bad-faith registrations, while still ensuring a structured registration criteria that provides sufficient flexibility for Australian businesses and protections for Australian internet users.

Question 1.1 - Whether a com.au or net.au domain name should only be allocated solely on the basis of sections 2.4.4(2)(a) to (e)?

Section 2.4.4(2)(f) provides flexibility for Australian businesses to have an online presence for commercial components of their business that are ad hoc, seasonal, or an indirect part of their identity.

While its goal was to create more choices for Australian businesses when registering a .com.au or .net.au domain name and create a richer online environment for Australian users, it has unfortunately resulted in the opposite- in particular due to (i), (ii), and (iv):

f. a Match or Synonym of the name of:

- i. a Service that the Person provides;*
- ii. Goods that the Person sells (whether retail or wholesale);*
- iii. an event that the Person registers or sponsors;*
- iv. an activity that the Person facilitates, teaches or trains;*
- v. premises which the Person operates*

The practical application of the above-mentioned criteria, in conjunction with the broad remit of "Match or Synonym", and the permitting of domain name monetisation of .com.au and .net.au domains, has created a domain namespace that is rife with domain name squatting. This takes legitimate usable domain names out of circulation and prevents legitimate Australian businesses from using them, slowing economic growth.

While previously there was more of a need for Australian businesses to register domain names for the goods and services that they provided to better assist Australian internet users find their business, the sophisticated and mature nature of Search

Engine Optimisation and Social Media integration with websites means there are alternative and more effective ways for websites of legitimate Australian businesses to help users locate their goods and services online.

In our view, removing 2.4.4(2)(f) in its entirety will harm legitimate Australian businesses and Australian users. We alternatively propose removing 2.4.4(2)(f)(i), 2.4.4(2)(f)(ii), and 2.4.4(2)(f)(iv) which will in our view strengthen the .com.au and .net.au namespaces by reducing the number of bad-faith websites that misdirect, redirect, data-harvest, or squat legitimate domain names.

Question 1.2 - Should the allocation requirements under 2.4.4(2) be removed from the .au Licensing Rules?

Section 2.4.4(2) should remain. In our view, removing 2.4.4(2) will lead to a highly chaotic domain namespace that incentivises bad-faith behaviour and result in a low-integrity namespace that significantly harms Australian businesses and Australian internet users.

As mentioned in our response to Question 1.1, lax registration requirements result in an increase in bad-faith domain name registrations. By removing 2.4.4(2), the only remaining allocation criterion is that the registrant be a *Commercial Entity*.

Commercial Entity is a defined term in the rules, meaning:

1. *a company under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth);*
2. *a Commonwealth entity as defined in section 10 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cth);*
3. *a Registrable Body under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth);*
4. *an Incorporated Association under State or Territory legislation;*
5. *an entity or natural Person issued with an Australian Business Number under the A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Act 1999 (Cth);*
6. *a Statutory Body under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation that engages in trade or commerce;*
7. *a Trust issued with an Australian Business Number, but does not include a charitable trust or a public or private ancillary fund*
8. *an Incorporated limited partnership under State and Territory legislation;*
9. *a Trading Cooperative under State and Territory legislation;*

10. Government, being either the Crown or a Commonwealth, State or Territory statutory agency; or

11. a Foreign Legal Entity or natural person who holds or has applied for an Australian Trade Mark.

To meet the criteria of being a Commercial Entity, a natural person could simply register ABN as a sole trader (which can be done online and almost instantly with no cost) and begin registering as many .com.au and .net.au domain names as they can afford.

While this would still prevent overseas registrants from registering domain names, the practical effect would be that there is almost no criterion for registering .com.au and .net.au domain names by an Australian. This would lead to an increase in bad-faith registrations that infringe on intellectual property rights and encroach on the brand identity of thousands of Australian businesses.

Question 1.3 - Should the Registrant be able to meet the allocation requirement of provision of a service (section 2.4.4(2)(f)(i)) through the establishment of a monetised website?

No, they should not.

As discussed in response to question 1.1, in our view, section 2.4.4(2)(f)(i) should be removed. However, for the benefit of discussion, if 2.4.4(2)(f)(i) were to remain, websites should not be permitted to use a monetised website as the basis to obtain a license for registering the domain name.

We will discuss domain name monetisation further in our response to Question 2.

Question 1.4 - Should the requirements of ‘Match or an Acronym’ and ‘Match or Synonym’ for .au be replaced with the old requirement for a ‘close and substantial connection’ with the domain name?

The scope of *match or an acronym* is much narrower and more objective than *close and substantial connection* which is much wider in scope and more subjective.

The fundamental issue with subjective language in the licensing rules is that they create circumstances that require either auDA or a Court to decide on whether something is “close and substantial”. This process takes time and uses resources.

In our view, if the language were replaced with the broader, more subjective version, consideration would need to be given to the additional resources required to ensure the correct application of the licensing rules and to the impact this would have on all budgeting and allocation processes moving forward.

Question 2: Should a domain name continue to be able to be registered for monetisation in com.au and net.au?

Response: No, it should not. We support the explicit disallowing of domain name monetisation under the domain licensing rules.

In our view, we strongly believe that domain name monetisation is a bad-faith practice that diminishes the integrity of the .au namespace and creates barriers to the establishment of new ideas and new businesses in Australia.

Domain name monetisation involves a sophisticated ecosystem of registrars, brokers, and hosting service providers (at times one entity acting in all roles, or commercially related entities) that create an “all stop shop” for a registrant to register and park their domains, and automatically deploy single page “websites” that serve advertisements loosely related to the subject of the domain name sourced from legitimate ad providers.

This allows the registrant to retain registration of their domain name under the licensing rules on the basis that they are providing a “service” linked to the domain name. However, the actual purpose of the registration is to sell the domain name to another registrant for much higher price.

The automatically generated website also features a notice that the domain is for sale or can be purchased, harvests potential purchasers' details, and eventually directs them to the broker. The broker then facilitates soliciting offers from potential purchasers in exchange for a percentage of the final sale price upon a successful sale.

Actors who engage in this type of domain name monetisation register numerous domain names that are highly desirable, generic, or in growing industries.

Typically, domain names are sold for several hundred times their registration cost. This is to cover the cost of registering the domain name for its lifetime, and to cover the cost of other domain names that have been registered but have not yet been sold.

Each successful sale of a domain name finances the purchase of more domain names, leading to a self-perpetuating industry that grows malignantly in the domain namespace, taking available domains out of circulation and away from legitimate businesses and users, only to be parked in the hopes of eventually securing a desperate and/or well-resourced buyer who pays a significant markup.

As of 30 March 2026, one of the prominent domain marketplaces serving Australia had 140,901 .com.au domain names available for purchase. Based on the registration

of .com.au domains in February 2026¹, this represents 4.34% of the total .com.au namespace available for purchase *on just one single marketplace*.

The number of domain names being registered for monetisation will only continue to grow due to the self-perpetuating business model of domain name monetisation, which will then drive demand for more domain name marketplaces and domain name monetisation services as the ecosystem grows.

Ultimately, this growth will continue unabated and will result in negative outcomes for both Australian businesses and Australian internet users unless it is explicitly prohibited in the licensing rules and there is proactive and diligent enforcement by auDA and accredited registrars.

¹ <https://files.ada.org.au/documents/Registry-Monthly-Stats-February-2026.pdf>

Question 3: How should contested names be dealt with in future?

Response: Utilising an arbitrary criterion such as domain registration date to resolve contested domain names is inherently unfair and potentially infringes on intellectual property rights and potentially denies natural justice to affected parties.

Contested domains should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis using a one-off dedicated resolution panel of qualified experts serving as a domestic tribunal. This domestic tribunal would be funded by application fees levied on all parties to a contested domain, with fees determined by the type of entity of the participating party. This process would ensure that natural justice is provided for all parties and help minimise the potential of external judicial review.

Of the three proposed options, we would support option two (current approach), followed by option three (auction). We strongly oppose option one due to the associated risks explored in this response.

A domestic tribunal to make decisions on a case-by-case basis

The contested names have arisen from the opening of registrations in the direct .au namespace for license holders of other .au 2TLDs (.com.au, .net.au, .gov.au, etc.). As this is a one-time event that cannot recur, the contested domain resolution process can also be a one-off that specifically addresses this situation.

In our view, resolving contested domain names with an arbitrary criterion, such as granting the domain to the contesting applicant with the earliest registration date of the matching domain name through a change to licensing rules after the registration, does not follow the principles of natural justice and could potentially create legal exposure for auDA and its members.

The process must be equitable and fair to all parties, and it must account for the unique circumstances of each contested domain. The only way to do this is to resolve each contested domain on a case-by-case basis with a process that adheres to the principles of natural justice.

What is a Domestic Tribunal?

A domestic tribunal is a private, quasi-judicial body established by a contract, association, or professional organisation to discipline members, enforce internal rules, or resolve disputes. Unlike courts, they are generally informal but must follow the principles of natural justice, with decisions enforceable and subject to limited review by courts.

To achieve this, we propose creating a pool of qualified and experienced professionals to be drawn from to form a single-member panel that serves as a domestic tribunal to resolve contested domain cases on a case-by-case basis.

The members of this pool would be individuals who have relevant experience, such as former Judges, Magistrates, Barristers, Lawyers, Tribunal Members, Specialist Consultants, and other people who have experience in relevant areas such as intellectual property, domain names, and dispute resolution.

This panel would serve as a domestic tribunal, allowing the parties who are contesting the domain to put forward their claims with evidence and respond to one another's claims. This would also help each contestant evaluate the strength of their case, and create opportunities to come to a negotiated outcome amenable by all parties as the strength of each party's claim is tested

The uncertainty of a judicial outcome

An essential factor to thoroughly consider is ensuring that the resolution process allows intellectual property holders to protect their brands and trademarks and enforce their rights.

By using the .au direct priority status tool² we identified at least five different .au domains that match the trademark or name of an ASX-listed internet company that has a market cap in the billions (AUD). Some of these companies rely heavily on their domain name for day-to-day business operations.

Contested Domain	Applicant 1	Applicant 2	Applicant 3
property.au	ASX Listed Company	State Government	Private Company
realestate.au	ASX Listed Company	Private Company	
cars.au	ASX Listed Company	Private Company	
plumbing.au	Not-for-profit	Private Company	
coles.au	ASX Listed Company	Individual	
iag.au	ASX Listed Company	Not-for-profit	
tab.au	State Government	ASX Listed Company	

² <https://www.auda.org.au/au-domain-names/au-tools/au-direct-priority-status-tool/>

In our view, if these parties were to lose their contested domain name, they may be well within their rights to seek recourse in a court of law. This could draw auDA, and potentially the relevant stakeholder Minister who administers the *Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth)*, into potentially lengthy and expensive proceedings.

If a matter regarding a contested domain name went to court, the construction and application of the licensing rules could be subject to judicial review. Any findings made by a court regarding the licensing rules could not apply only to the domain in the case in which it was resolving, but potentially to all registered .au domain names thereafter.

Concrete Pty Ltd v Parramatta Design & Developments Pty Ltd [2006] HCA 55
A case that went all the way to the High Court of Australia, which changed how architects handle the copyright of their architectural plans and drawings.

In 1998, two businesses created a joint venture to develop land in NSW. Architectural drawings and plans were commissioned from the company *Parramatta Design*, that was owned by one of the partners of the joint venture. The plans were lodged as part of a Development Application (DA) to the local Council and were approved in 2000.

Due to differences of opinion among the partners, the joint venture could not proceed with building the development, and the NSW Supreme Court was asked to dissolve the joint venture and sell the land, which now had an approved DA.

In 2003, the land was purchased by the company *Concrete* with the intention of commencing with the development. Concrete did not have a license to use the architectural plans that were in the DA as they were the copyright of *Parramatta Design*.

After failing to obtain a licence to use the plans from *Parramatta Design* because they could not agree on a price, Concrete commenced proceedings in the Federal Court.

At first, the Federal court found Concrete had a right to use the plans; however, on appeal, the Full Federal Court reversed this decision. Concrete subsequently appealed to the High Court of Australia.

The High Court reversed the Full Federal Court's decision and ruled that Concrete was allowed to use the plans drawn by *Parramatta Design* without needing to pay for them.

The Court found that when the DA was approved, an implied licence was given to the landowner to use the plans for their intended purpose, which was now

irrevocable because the purposes for which the plans were prepared (to obtain a DA) had been achieved. This implied licence could be relied upon by the new owner, Concrete, despite not having an explicit license and not having paid for the architectural plans.

Following this ruling, architects had to revise their agreements to ensure that they expressly reserved the copyright in their plans in both the agreement and the contract of sale for land. Several legal proceedings were commenced in the following years, citing various findings from the *Concrete vs Parramatta Design* case.

When a matter goes before the courts, there is always the potential for an unpredictable outcome with a precedent being set that redefines industry practice. Working with clients in highly regulated industries and adversarial dispute resolution processes, we have witnessed this firsthand, with precedents being set that have overturned decades of earlier precedent and set aside foundational industry practice.

Financing this domestic tribunal with application fees

The establishment and operation of a domestic tribunal that considers contested domains on a case-by-case basis would require significant time and resources. We propose that this be funded by application fees required of all parties who wish to be parties to the proceedings.

If a party was unwilling to pay the requisite application fee, they would be ineligible to participate in the process and would not be able to submit their evidence. The financial burden this would place on applicants would be mitigated by having an equitable fee structure that is not prohibitive for everyday applicants, such as individuals, small businesses, and not-for-profits.

To adequately fund this process, it is proposed that the application fee be determined based on the type of entity a party is, with more well-resourced entities, such as government entities and publicly listed companies, paying significantly more than private companies and individuals.

An example of such a fee schedule could look like this:

Entity Type	Proposed Application Fee
Individual	\$100
Not-for-profit/Organisation	\$100
Private Company (Turnover < \$5m)	\$500
Private Company (Turnover > \$5m)	\$1,000

Private Company (Turnover > \$20m)	\$2,500
Private Company (Turnover > \$50m)	\$5,000
Local Government Entity	\$5,000
State/Federal Government Entity	\$10,000
Public Company Unlisted	\$5,000
Public Company Listed	\$10,000
Trust	<i>Same as Private Company</i>

By having an application fee determined by entity type, this recognises and achieves three things:

- 1) Applications involving parties that are more well-resourced will require greater scrutiny and involvement by the domestic tribunal and thus need more funding.
- 2) Applications fees from cases with larger parties will in effect subsidise the cases where all applicants are smaller entities.
- 3) Government entities that mass registered domain names in large volumes need to prioritise the domain names they wish to contest.

Assessment criteria and outcomes of the domestic tribunal

As stated earlier, as the regulator of the .au domain namespace, auDA’s role is not just to regulate for the benefit of domain registrants but also for the benefit of the wider Australian internet community.

Accordingly, we view decisions on contested domains as also requiring consideration of the impact on the wider internet community. This would be achieved by granting the domestic tribunal a wide scope of factors that may be considered in its decision, including but not limited to:

- Impact on internet users
- Data privacy considerations
- Impact on the Australian economy
- Underlying domain registration date
- Level of adherence to licensing rules
- Integrity of the .au namespace
- Site traffic of underlying domains
- Potential for domain name confusion
- Use of the underlying domain name
- Intended use of contested domain
- Greater public benefit
- Potential for confusion or abuse

The domestic tribunal should have the power to resolve contested domains by enacting the following outcomes:

- Domain is transferred to an applicant
- Domain is declared a reserved name
- Domain is sent to public auction
- Applicants are sent to mediation
- Domain is unregistered
- Ratify an agreement between all participating parties

With the potential for applicants to receive an unfavourable outcome in a contested domain name proceeding, there will be increased pressure on applicants to reach an arrangement among themselves. Given the transparent nature of the application fees, there will be a natural ceiling for financial requests to applicants that may help guide the negotiation process.

The original three options

Of the original three options proposed in the issue paper, in our view, the following options are preferable (in order of preference)

1. **Option Two – Current Approach:** The current approach, which does not change anything, is most preferable as it does not introduce any risks into the process. By keeping the contested .au out of registration, it maintains that no party's intellectual property rights are infringed and therefore, while not advancing the situation, it does not negatively impact any party or introduce risk to the auDA or licensing rules.
2. **Option Three – Auction:** While not necessarily an equitable approach, this option does not arbitrarily rule against applicants on the basis of registration date or any other factor and thereby does not deny them natural justice. Additionally, auction processes have been used for Australian domain names in the past and for other telecommunications identifiers, such as phone numbers.

Question 4: Should the requirement that reserved names that pose a risk to the operational security, integrity, and utility of the .au domain be published on the website be removed from the .au Licensing Rules?

Response: The reserved names list should not be published on the auDA's website.

The evolving nature of cybersecurity is often described as a game of cat-and-mouse. A constant battle between threat actors who circumvent, exploit, or identify attack vectors, defenders who deploy countermeasures in response, and threat actors who respond by finding new circumventions or exploits.

One common attack vector is look-alike domain names that exploit misspellings of legitimate popular domain names, or increasingly, homograph attacks of popular domains.

What is a homograph attack?

A homograph attack is where attackers use characters from different scripts that look identical or nearly identical to create deceptive domain names.

With the official introduction of Unicode support for domain names in 2003, characters from other scripts became usable in domain names. While this enabled domain registration in other scripts, such as Cyrillic and Arabic, localising the internet for billions of people worldwide, it also allowed the use of characters from other scripts in the Latin script.

This allowed registering domains that looked similar to the user's by substituting one or more Latin-script characters with a similar or identical character.

Example: AUDA.COM.AU vs AUDA.COM.AU

While the above domain names may appear identical when displayed in capital letters using Arial, they are in fact different domain names.

One is the legitimate auDA domain name, and the other has replaced one character with an alternative character that is visually indistinguishable. The illegitimate domain is available for registration at an accredited .au registrar.

In our view, the integrity of the .au domain namespace is strengthened if the reserved names list is not published. Australian internet users would be better served if auDA were to regularly add domains to the reserved list as they are identified, and before they are registered by threat actors.

By publishing the list of reserved domains, threat actors could identify potential combinations that have not been identified and register those domain names for sophisticated phishing attacks.

Question 5: Should there be changes to the complaints wording and/or processes in .au Licensing Rules to reflect audit action complaints and to reflect an applicant's standing to escalate a complaint?

Response: Yes. The positions that auDA has adopted, which provide natural justice to parties and broaden the definition of affected persons, should be codified in the licensing rules. As the regulator of the .au domain namespace, auDA's role is to serve the wider Australian internet community. Any Australian internet user should have access to the complaints process and have the principles of natural justice apply.

Question 5.1 - Should the descriptions and processes under Part 3 of the .au Licensing Rules explicitly include complaints arising out of the audit process?

Yes. In our view, auDA has taken the correct approach to managing actions arising from audits in accordance with Part 3, ensuring the principles of natural justice are applied. Codifying this practice into the licensing rules strengthens the entire process.

Question 5.2 - Should the description of "affected person" in Part 3 of the .au Licensing Rules be changed to align with auDA's current process? and

Question 5.3. Alternatively, should auDA change its approach to align with the description of an "affected person"?

In our view, auDA has taken the correct approach in applying the broadest possible interpretation of "affected person". An illegitimate, erroneous, or defective registration, renewal, process, application, or decision should not be deemed as remedied simply because the directly affected person did not complain.

The intricate nature of the internet and all its subsequent components, including domain names, means that people could be indirectly affected in ways that may not necessarily, or fairly, be captured by a narrow definition of affected person.

As the regulator of the .au domain namespace, auDA's role is not just to apply rules that benefit domain registrars and registrants, but also the wider Australian internet community.

In our view, in order to be able to maintain the highest possible level of integrity of the .au domain name space and to protect the wider Australian internet community, the broadest possible definition of affected person should be codified into the licensing rules, including and up to any member of the public.

Question 6: Should auDA align selected business practices and rules with gTLD rules?

Response: Yes. In general, the gTLD timeframes are longer than the .au timeframes and therefore aligning the .au timeframes with the gTLD will increase the opportunity for .au registrants to preserve expiring domain names, protect their existing domain names, and recover expired domain names.

Question 6.1 - Should auDA amend the four rules in the above table to align them with gTLD rules and ensure all the amended rules are in the .au Licensing Rules?

Renewal Period

By removing the 90-day renewal window and allowing domain names to be renewed at any time that the domain registrant wishes to, domain names could be renewed as their business value or dependence increases. This would provide greater protection for registrants by allowing them to align their domain names with their operations and other registrations, such as business name renewals.

In our view, this timeframe should be aligned with the gTLD.

Cooling Off Period

The cooling-off period is not typically much of a concern for regular end users since domain name registrations that are no longer needed can simply be left to expire. Often, the price of a domain name registration by most registrars does not warrant the time and effort for a business to utilise their cooling-off period.

In our view, this timeframe should be aligned with the gTLD only if accredited .au registrars support it.

Redemption Period

The unintended expiration of a domain name for a business or individual could be catastrophic to the operations and ultimately existence of that business, or the life and privacy of that individual. While it is the responsibility of all domain registrants to ensure their contact details are up to date and they are diligent with their renewals, nonetheless, circumstances can get in the way and renewal notices can be missed or never received.

Allowing 30 days for a client to redeem their domain name will help ensure that a higher percentage of dropped domains were actually intended to be dropped and were not accidentally dropped. In our view, 30 days is sufficient time for people to notice their emails have stopped working and/or their website is not working, and make attempts to recover their domain with their registrar.

The parties primarily disadvantaged by this increase are potential registrants who wish to “catch” the dropped domain names. These registrants often register dropped domain names for the purposes of domain name monetisation, typically requiring a very significant price for the original registrant to purchase their domain name off the new registrant.

Increasing the redemption period assist legitimate registrants and reduces the number of opportunistic bad-faith registrations for unintended expirations. This only strengthens the .au namespace and helps Australian businesses and Australian users.

In our view, this timeframe should be aligned with the gTLD.

Question 6.2 - Are there other international best practices and approaches, besides what is discussed, that could bring .au Licensing Rules into alignment with international domain name lifecycle rules?

In general, any timeframes that create more opportunity for registrants to protect, recover, and keep their domain names should be strongly considered. There are no other specific timeframes we would suggest alignment with.



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