

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Policy Advisory Panel 2025 – review of the .au Licensing Rules

Background

.au Domain Administration (auDA) is an Australian not-for-profit community based organisation, endorsed by the Australian Government to manage the .au domain for the benefit of all Australians. One of auDA's core functions under the Terms of Endorsement is to administer a licensing regime for .au domain names based in multi-stakeholder processes which is transparent, responsive, accountable, accessible and efficient.

The .au Domain Administration Rules: Licensing (.au Licensing Rules) set out the rules to licence .au domain names as part of the overall licensing regime, the .au Licensing Framework.

The auDA Board has appointed an external Policy Advisory Panel to undertake a multi-stakeholder review of the .au Licensing Rules to ensure these rules reflect community expectations and remain relevant and effective over time.

One of the deliverables of the Policy Advisory Panel is this Engagement Plan, to be published on the Review webpage, which identifies the relevant stakeholders and how consultation with these stakeholders will be undertaken.

The Terms of Endorsement require auDA to support fair and transparent multi-stakeholder engagement processes and take into consideration the full range of stakeholder views, when reviewing or developing policies related to auDA's core functions.

Information about the review, including the review terms and conditions, can be found on the dedicated webpage: <https://www.auda.org.au/public-impact/have-your-say/policy-panels/au-licensing-rules-review-2025/>.

Engagement objectives	• Ensure that all relevant stakeholder groups are made aware of the review and given an opportunity to contribute, and key stakeholders provide feedback through direct engagement. • Raise public awareness of the review and encourage submissions by interested parties. • Ensure an accessible, transparent and clear engagement process. • Ensure a respectful consultation process and exchange of ideas, in accordance with the auDA Engagement Charter. • Receive feedback /submissions from a range of relevant stakeholders to inform the Panel’s recommendations and report to the auDA Board.					
Multi-stakeholder engagement guidelines	Through its internet governance work, auDA is a contributor to, and supporter of, the NETmundial+10 Multistakeholder Statement. This statement includes a set of guidelines and process steps for effective implementation of multi-stakeholder internet governance (Sao Pãulo Multistakeholder Guidelines). The São Paulo Guidelines promote best practice in multi-stakeholder policy processes, for example, having clear processes, making sure information is accessible to stakeholders and explaining how feedback shapes decisions. The work of the Policy Advisory Panel will be guided by the best practice principles in the São Paulo Guidelines.					
Supporting documents	• Terms of Reference of the .au Licensing Rules Review 2025 • .au Licensing Rules • auDA corporate policy Process for the Development and Review of auDA Published Policies, which sets out the process under which the review will be undertaken • auDA Terms of Endorsement from the Australian Government • NETmundial+10 Multistakeholder Statement (including São Paulo Guidelines) • auDA Engagement Charter • Policy Advisory Panel project plan, avaiable on the Panel’s webpage: https://www.auda.org.au/public-impact/have-your-say/policy-panels/au-licensing-rules-review-2025/					
Relevant Stakeholder Groups	<table><tr><th>Stakeholders</th></tr><tr><td>Domain name consumers and registrants</td></tr><tr><td>Federal and State governments, including government regulators</td></tr><tr><td>Registrars and resellers</td></tr><tr><td>Australian community</td></tr></table>	Stakeholders	Domain name consumers and registrants	Federal and State governments, including government regulators	Registrars and resellers	Australian community
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Timing	- Public consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement will commence in September 2025. - A draft report with recommendations will be developed by end of 2025 and referred for further public consultation in early 2026. - The final review report with recommendations will be presented to the auDA Board in early to mid 2026.																						
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**Engagement
Schedule**

The engagement schedule for public consultation by the Panel will be published on the Panel webpage in October and updated as required: <https://www.auda.org.au/public-impact/have-your-say/policy-panels/au-licensing-rules-review-2025/>