

From: [Stredix](#)
To: [LRreview](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Submission to the .au Licensing Rules Review 2025-26
Date: Friday, 26 December 2025 12:06:40 PM

To the Policy Review Panel,

I am submitting this feedback with regards to the issue of .au contested domain names. The terms of reference for this rules review states that it includes consideration of contested .au direct names. Furthermore, a survey was conducted by auDA regarding contested domains names. The survey results published on the auDA website indicated that the top two preferences for a resolution are either awarding the domain to the applicant with earliest registration date or to continue the current approach for managing the contested domain names.

I am pleased to see the strong sentiment highlighted in the same survey open feedback to exclude domain investors. I echo this sentiment as awarding the .au direct name to a domain investor/speculator based on the earlier registration would see now two domains without active use only to be on sold to someone who would have a legitimate use for it at an exorbitant profit. At the same time the other contested party would lose the money they have spent contesting the domain name to date and then have to spend thousands if not more to gain a utility from the domain. This is grossly unfair and damages the integrity of the .au domain space.

Therefore, I wish to strongly express my opposition to the first option of allocating the contested domain name to the applicant with the earlier registration name.

In addition, if this option was to be implemented, I would expect auDA at the very least to compensate the other contested parties by refunding application fees in full to date. Otherwise this would be seen as an extraction of money by auDA for no real purpose from a number of applicants. Had they known rules would be changed in the future then they would not have participated nor invested in the current process. Again this puts into question ethics and integrity of auDA administration of the .au domain name space.

Based on these points, I endorse and support that the second most popular survey option is adopted which is to continue with the current process for managing the contested domains. Bearing in mind that any applicant is free to withdraw from the application process at any time if they wish to do so. This is the fairest outcome for all involved and have spent money and time in the process to date.

I would also like to see that domain name monetisation eligibility are removed from the .au licensing rules as this in my opinion has hindered the uptake of .au domains by many due to a small number of players holding on to unused domain names as well as claiming the newly opened .au direct names. These would otherwise be utilised by parties with purpose for their use and see a more vibrant and successful .au domain name space.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Sedrick