

Formal Proposal to auDA: Implementation of ABN Registration Locking and Registrar-Managed Restrictions from Synergy Wholesale

Accreditations (Registrar):

We understand that you are currently seeking feedback on the draft licensing policy. While the following proposal falls outside the scope of the draft, we believe it raises an important consideration for the auDA Policy Advisory Panel and respectfully request that it be reviewed as part of the broader policy review process.

1. Objective

To modernise and automate the existing mechanism that prevents unauthorised domain registrations against a specific Australian Business Number (ABN).

We propose implementing a technology-driven registry lock. This solution will empower auDA-accredited registrars to place and lift ABN-level registration blocks on behalf of verified registrants directly through registry technology.

The Result: A more secure, credible, and trustworthy .au domain space, with significantly reduced administrative overhead for auDA, the registry, and registrars.

2. Problem Statement

Currently, there is no practical centralised registry-level mechanism to prevent unauthorised third parties from using a legitimate organisation's ABN on domain registrations. This leaves businesses vulnerable to:

- **Brand hijacking and impersonation:** Malicious actors registering domains using a victim's ABN to appear legitimate.
- **Administrative overhead:** Organisations and registrars must rely on reactive measures, chasing down domains to have them removed

3. Proposed Solution: The "ABN Auth-Code" Framework

We propose a two-tiered framework to enhance domain security and streamline validation.

- **ABN Registration Lock (Registry Level):** Implement an opt-in registry-level status that flags an ABN as "Secured." When active, any new domain application attempting to use that ABN is automatically rejected by the registry system.
- **Delegated Registrar Authority (Registrar Level):** Grant accredited registrars the authority to initiate this ABN lock via API on behalf of their clients. Under this model, the managing registrar provides a warranty to auDA that they have verified the identity of the organisation and hold explicit authority from the legal entity associated with the ABN to initiate or lift the secure status

4. Benefits to the .au Ecosystem

- **Proactive Fraud Prevention:** Shifts the ecosystem from a reactive model to a proactive defence posture, significantly reducing corporate identity theft within the .au ccTLD.
- **Efficiency:** Empowers registrars to act as trusted gatekeepers, reducing the administrative burden on auDA compliance teams by resolving authorisation at the point of sale

- **Cost Saving:** Reduces the manpower used by both auDA and Registrars to address fraud and impersonation cases.
- **Enhanced Trust:** Strengthens the integrity of the .au domain space for Australian businesses.

As an active registrar in the .au ecosystem, Synergy Wholesale Accreditations stands ready to collaborate with auDA on the technical scope and practical implementation of this framework. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further or participate in a working group. For any queries, please contact our team at info@nexigen.digital.