



ABN 85 008 391 795

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

8 June 2001

Ms Jo Lim
Chief Policy Officer
.au Domain Administration
GPO Box 1545P
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Ms Lim

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) is the peak council of Australian business associations. ACCI's members are employer organisations in all States and Territories and all major sectors of Australian industry. Through our membership, ACCI represents over 350,000 businesses, making ACCI the largest and most representative business organisation in Australia.

ACCI has been actively involved in the development of policies guiding the allocation of domain names in the .au domain space. In a letter to auDA dated 17 May 2001, ACCI raised the issue of geographic names, which are potentially very valuable to local communities including local business communities. However, this letter deals more generally with the issue of 2LDs and should be read separately from the aforementioned letter.

ACCI believes that the current restrictions on issuing of 2LDs is too restrictive and that there is a need to develop a process for allocating 2LDs which is consistent with the ten attributes outlined on page 3 of the discussion paper "New Second Level Domain Names in the Australian DNS".

In addition to the need to open up the geographic domain space, ACCI believes that additional 2LDs should be made available to industry groups and professional organisations which would enable them to issue domain names to their membership. The format of such domain names could be 'member name.organisation acronym.au'.

The benefits of these 2LDs would be to increase competition for domain names and therefore reduce costs, as well as to stimulate small and micro business adoption of electronic commerce. There are also potential consumer benefits because the domain name will provide information about the organisation as well as making searching for businesses easier.

In establishing a process for allocating 2LDs to industry groups, it is essential that a process of assessment be established which ensures that 2LDs are provided only to bona fide industry groups.

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More generally, ACCI believes that the current restrictions on issuing of 2LDs are too restrictive and that a process for consideration of new 2LDs needs to be established which provides a clear framework for the issuance of new 2LDs.

If you have any questions regarding our comments please contact Tim Reardon on (02) 6273 2311.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Karen Curtis'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen L Curtis
Director, Industry Policy