

20 March 2007

Ms Debbie Monahan
Office of the Domain Name Commissioner
P O Box 11881
WELLINGTON

Dear Debbie

Re: Application for a new second level domain - .bank.nz

I have been referred for reply your letter of 22 February 2007 to Dr Don Abel which relates to the creation of the second-level domain name “.bank.nz”.

The Reserve Bank registers and supervises banks operating in New Zealand, so has an interest in the possible creation of this second-level domain name.

If “.bank.nz” were to be created, we agree it should be available solely to New Zealand registered banks (of which there are currently 16 – listed on our website). Granting its use to other entities would cause confusion as to the status of the entity, and potentially mislead the public. If such a website name were granted to an entity other than a New Zealand registered bank, and that site was used to carry on any activity in New Zealand, then the owner of the name would be in breach of section 64 of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand Act 1989. In these circumstances it is likely that we would seek deregistration of the offending website.

Therefore we support the application, provided the “.bank.nz” name is available only to New Zealand registered banks. We also recommend that the moderation policy be changed in section 6), para 4 by the addition of the underlined words:

“The domain name sought is the same as, or derived from the applicant bank or trading/operating name or a product or brand name associated with the registered bank. (Note: there will be no restrictions on the number of registrations per organisation).

Lastly, we ask you to note our ongoing interest in this matter. We wish to be consulted should it be proposed to change any aspect of the access or other criteria.

Yours sincerely



Nick McBride
Legal Counsel

Ref #2957438 v1.0