

## **.nz Policy Framework Review – Consultation Paper**

### **Overview**

The Domain Name Commission is proposing a simplification of the .nz policy framework that could see 13 of the 14 current policies replaced by three policies. Public comment is now sought on this simplification and modernisation of the .nz policy framework. Submissions are due 11am Monday, 3 August 2015.

### **Background**

The current .nz policy framework was established in 2002, alongside the implementation of the Shared Registry System (SRS). Since then there have been a number of incremental changes, some significant evolutions and one major addition to the policy. These evolutions have included the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs), Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and most recently opening up the second level for registrations direct at .nz. In 2006, the most significant addition to the framework occurred with the implementation of the Dispute Resolution Service (DRS).

Following the most recent evolution in .nz policy to allow second level registrations, it is timely to review the policy framework as a whole to ensure it remains relevant to the current operation of .nz, and that it is also flexible enough to endure for another ten years or more.

### **Approach**

The review seeks to simplify and modernise the policy framework around how .nz operates rather than change it. The general policy principles .nz operates to, and the way the current system operates, will continue largely unchanged. For example, .nz names will continue to be available on a first come, first served basis for terms from 1 to 120 months and the Registry, Registrars, Registrants and DNCL will continue with their current roles and responsibilities.

The one area where there is a proposed change is around use of the .nz data. As part of this review, DNCL has been asked by InternetNZ to consider making allowance in the policy for use of .nz data by NZRS to offer new services. Up until this time the .nz policies have prevented DNS and other data being used for new services.

Provision has been made in the enclosed policies drafted for public consultation to allow proposals for use of .nz data to be considered if they would serve the local Internet community. In addition to seeking comments generally about the policies being consulted on, we would welcome any comments people may have on this particular aspect. It is important to note that DNCL will remain responsible for approving any use of .nz data for new services by NZRS or any other entity.

In reviewing the current .nz policy framework the following outcomes are sought:

- Ensuring all policy statements are relevant to the current operation of .nz
- Evaluating whether there is sufficient flexibility to meet the changing environment, particularly around security related issues
- Removing duplication of topics in different policies
- Simplifying what is specified in the policies without compromising their intent
- Simplifying the policy structure to make it easier to locate relevant policy clauses and easier to review

There are currently 14 .nz policies issued by DNCL (which can be seen at [dnc.org.nz/policies](http://dnc.org.nz/policies)). These are:

- Policy Development Process (PDP)
- Second Level Domains (2LD)
- Authorisation of Registrars Process (AOR)
- Change of Registrant (COR)
- Dispute and Complaints Process (DCP)
- Dispute Resolution Service (DRS)
- Investigations and Inquiries Process (IIP)
- Privacy Policy (PRI)
- Process on De-Authorisation of a Registrar (POD)
- Roles and Responsibilities (RAR)
- Registering, Managing and Cancelling Domain Names (RMC)
- Transfer to Another Registrar (TAR)
- WHOIS Server Policy (WSP)
- Zone Transfer Policy (ZTP)

Some reviews of policy content are still scheduled for later this year, such the policies relating to WHOIS.

### **Proposed changes**

It is proposed to simplify these down to four policies:

- Policy Development Process (PDP)
- Dispute Resolution Service (DRS)
- .nz Principles and Responsibilities (Principles)
- .nz Operations and Procedures (Operations)

This consultation seeks comments on three of these policies, as detailed below. There are no changes proposed to the current DRS at this time.

#### **Policy Development Process**

This policy has had some minor wording changes over the current version but has not changed the way policy is set. It sets out the open, consultation process that DNCL will use when setting and reviewing .nz policies.

#### **.nz Principles and Responsibilities**

The .nz Principles and Responsibilities policy has two main sections: one relating to the principles the market and .nz operate to; the second identifying those involved in the .nz market and their key responsibilities.

#### **.nz Operations and Procedures**

The .nz Operations and Procedures policy covers details of what can be registered in .nz and how, the management and operation of .nz names, the authorisation and de-authorisation of registrars and complaint handling. It also covers .nz information, appropriate forms and guidance for the relevant procedures.

### **Summary**

The 'Principles' and 'Operations' policies would be two new policies but they retain the approach and general policy framework currently in place. Two of the existing

policies (the RMC and RAR) are broad and cover a range of areas while the others generally relate to one process or area of operation. This has meant that there is some duplication of matters covered across different policies and removing this is one of the outcomes wanted from this review.

Content from all existing policies, with the exception of the PDP and DRS, has been incorporated into either the Principles or Operations policy. This simplifies and modernises the policy framework enabling easier accessibility to relevant information for both Registrars and Registrants.

### Responses

Comments are sought on the proposed amendment to the .nz policy framework, and where applicable on the detail of the policies themselves. If preferable you may choose to answer via these questions:

*Would the proposed changes to the .nz policy framework be simpler for participants in the .nz Domain Name Space?*

*Are there any other changes or improvements to the .nz policy framework that you would like to suggest?*

*Are there any other comments you would like to make?*

Submissions are due 11am, Monday 3 August 2015. Submissions can be made via email to [policies@dnc.org.nz](mailto:policies@dnc.org.nz), via post to P.O. Box 11-881, Wellington 6142, or via fax to +64 4 495 2115.

All submissions will be published on the DNCL website as received.