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14 August 2012

Joy Liddicoat  
Chair  
Domain Name Commission Limited  
PO Box 11 881  
Wellington 6011

Dear Joy,

**Consultation: Proposed registration of .nz domain names at the second level**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Domain Name Commission's consultation on the proposed registration of second level .nz domain names. Please find attached the Department of Internal Affairs' answers to the questions outlined in the Consultation Paper.

Yours sincerely,

**Colin MacDonald**  
Chief Executive and Government Chief Information Officer  
Department of Internal Affairs



# **Response to DNCL Consultation on Second Level .nz Domain Names**

Colin MacDonald, Chief Executive and Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO)  
Department of Internal Affairs

14 August 2012

## **1. Question 1**

**Should the New Zealand domain name space be extended to allow registration at the second level, for example yourname.nz?**

The Office of the GCIO supports the Domain Name Commission (DNC) in its responsibility to consult the New Zealand Internet community and reasonably decide, based on input from that community, on the question of second level .nz registrations.

## **2. Question 2**

**Are there any other undertakings that the Domain Name Commission should make while developing/implementing the policy?**

Should the proposal be approved, the DNC should consider establishing mechanisms for:

- regularly reviewing and updating (adding to/removing from) a list of domain names that are prohibited from being registered at the second level;
- adjudicating the registration of any domain name whose appropriateness is conditional on its context and purpose; and,
- enabling and approving or denying applications for the registration of otherwise prohibited second level domain names, e.g., the name of a municipality (see Question #5 below).

## **3. Question 3**

**Should new second level domains be created to cater for particular interest groups, such as .wine.nz or .sport.nz?**

Whether or not the proposal is approved, the DNC should consider holding a public consultation soliciting the New Zealand Internet community's views and a vote on potential second level domains for interest groups.

## **4. Question 4**

**Should new moderated second level domains be created to cater for domain names that require special protection, such as .bank.nz?**

Should the proposal be approved, government and non-government organisations representing sectors or official communities or membership bodies should be provided an open opportunity to consider promoting and protecting their sector, community, or body, through the registration and moderation of special second level domains, e.g., .energy.nz, .electricity.nz, .library.nz, .tourism.nz, .education.nz.

### **5. Question 5.**

**Should the registration of some names such as .com.nz or .gov.nz, be prohibited at the second level to minimise potential confusion? What names, if any, should be prohibited?**

Should the proposal be approved, the following second level names should be prohibited:

- any names that begin with “xn--“ (in order to account for internationalized domain names);
- the name and official or conventional abbreviation of the name of any New Zealand city, town, district, municipality, or recognised landmark;
- .city.nz, .council.nz, .town.nz; and,
- .com.nz, .edu.nz, .info.nz, .biz.nz, .gov.nz, .government.nz, .egov.nz, .egovt.nz, .egovernment.nz, .e-gov.nz, .e-govt.nz, .e-government.nz, .nzgov.nz, .nzgovt.nz, .nzgovernment.nz, .nz-gov.nz, .nz-govt.nz, .nz-government.nz, .nz.nz, .newzealand.nz, .new-zealand.nz.

See also the answer to Question #2 above.

### **6. Question 6.**

**Do you agree with the rationale for the Sunrise Period that would enable existing .nz domain name holders first chance to register names at the second level? Why?**

The Office of the GCIO supports the DNC in its responsibility to consult the New Zealand Internet community and reasonably decide, based on input from that community, on this question.

### **7. Question 7.**

**Who should be allowed to register a domain name at the second level when there are competing registrations at the third level?**

The Office of the GCIO supports the DNC in its responsibility to consult the New Zealand Internet community and reasonably decide, based on input from that community, on this question.

### **8. Question 8**

**Assuming only persons with a conflicting third level domain name may apply, how should that conflict be resolved? By consent? Or some other mechanism?**

The Office of the GCIO supports the DNC in its responsibility to consult the New Zealand Internet community and reasonably decide, based on input from that community, on this question.

**9. Question 9.**

**Should the Domain Name Commission consider extending its Dispute Resolution Service for a limited period to cover particular sub-domains when considering whether a name registered at the second level infringes a complainant's rights?**

Should the proposal be approved, yes, the DNC should consider extending its Dispute Resolution Period for a limited period in the interest of reducing the potentially negative impact of any general confusion or lost opportunity on existing third level domain holders following such a significant change to the .nz domain name space.

**10. Question 10.**

**Is the approach as outlined in the proposed amended policy in Appendix C appropriate? Why?**

The Office of the GCIO supports the DNC in its responsibility to consult the New Zealand Internet community and reasonably decide, based on input from that community, on this question.

**11. Question 11**

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

No.

**12. Please enter your name, and if relevant, organisation. Your name and organisation may be published with your survey results.**

Colin MacDonald, Chief Executive and Government Chief Information Officer  
Department of Internal Affairs  
New Zealand Government