



SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Ref No: MS18-001183

Mr Chris Leptos AM
Chair
auDA Board
Level 17 1 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Dear Mr Leptos

Chris

.au Domain Administration (auDA) six-month checkpoint

I refer to the *Review of the .au Domain Administration* (the Review) released on 18 April 2018, and your subsequent response on 20 April 2018 that auDA will fully implement all recommendations of the Review. Further, I refer to the formal six-month assessment of auDA's progress against the Review which was conducted on 11 October 2018.

I am pleased to inform you that I consider auDA has met the expectations set by the Government for the six-month checkpoint.

I am advised that auDA has undertaken a significant amount of work towards meeting the requirements of the Review, including developing a new constitution, which was adopted on 27 September 2018. I understand the new constitution will allow auDA to restructure its board so that the majority of its directors are independent. The constitution also creates a governing class and associate class of membership for a transitional period to enable stability in the organisation, after which auDA's membership will comprise a single class.

Now that this constitutional reform has been passed, I expect that auDA will now focus its attention on fully implementing all recommendations of the Review. I understand you are working closely with my Department, and I am encouraged to learn that a number of recommendations are on track.

I also understand auDA is working closely with my Department to refine a number of strategic policies required by the Review to ensure that auDA's role and purpose and the Government's Terms of Endorsement are adequately considered. I encourage auDA to consult widely and meaningfully with its stakeholders on these policies.

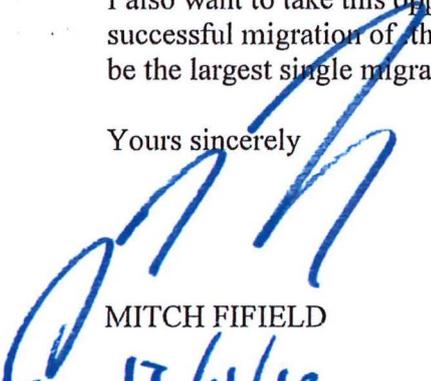
The Australian Government is committed to the multi-stakeholder internet governance approach. It allows individuals, industry, non-commercial interests and government to contribute equally to discussions about the policy and technical management of the internet. An inclusive, consensus-based, transparent and accountable multi-stakeholder approach is a proven model for responding to complex challenges associated with the development of the internet. It is my expectation that auDA's approach to stakeholder engagement will be built on this proven and globally-accepted model of multi-stakeholder engagement.

To ensure the .au namespace is being managed consistently with Government and community expectations, it is also important that auDA now focusses on building greater transparency and accountability into its business practices. This includes finalising auDA's transparency and accountability framework, reporting on its performance through its annual report and annual general meeting, and fully meeting the reporting requirements under the Government's Terms of Endorsement.

I look forward to hearing of auDA's progress to meet the requirements of the Review following the next formal checkpoint in April 2019.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and all those involved on the successful migration of the .au registry that occurred on 1 July 2018, which I understand to be the largest single migration to have taken place to date.

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIFIELD

13/11/18