

## Terms of Reference – Working Group

### *Background*

*Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) use the twenty six letters of the Latin alphabet (a-z), the ten digits (0-9), and the hyphen (-) in a specially encoded format that permits the representation of a far larger selection of characters from many scripts.*

The above wording is taken from a page that provides an overview of what IDNs are, how they work and what issues they raise – <http://about.museum/idn/tutorial.html>.

IDNs are an issue for .nz given the five macrons in the Māori language and the desire to enable them in .nz domain names. Macrons cannot be introduced without implementing IDNs.

### *Scope*

Reporting through to the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC), the Working Group (WG) is to identify what implications the introduction of IDN into the .nz domain name space will have on the current policies and technical structures. After identifying the issues, possible solutions are to be proposed along with an evaluation of the implications of the proposals on the policies and technical systems. The WG has no mandate to commit InternetNZ to any particular position.

### *Key roles and responsibilities*

- Evaluate appropriate RFC documents (these include, for example, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc4290.txt> and <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc4690.txt> )
- Study other ccTLDs that have implemented IDNs, and work done to date in the gTLD space, to determine if there is a 'best practice' model and to get familiar with the options possible
- Identify technical matters associated with IDNs and propose possible solutions
- Determine policy implications of IDN implementation and propose alternatives to the current .nz policies and procedures
- Report to NZOC as required
- Identify matters to be explored as part of any implementation.