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Submission to the

Domain Name Commissioner (DNC)

on the

Registering, Managing and Cancelling
Domain Names - Policy Review

This submission is made jointly on behalf of the following Authorised Registrars

- 1) 1st Domains
- 2) RegisterDirect

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As a Registrar, we disagree with the proposals submitted that would introduce registration restrictions for open .nz domain names. We would see this as a backward step for any ccTLD to take in a market that is showing a clear trend of relaxing registration restrictions. As a recent example of this, the AUDA which is the organisation that oversees the Australian Domain Name space has recently called for a review of its own Domain Name Policy Framework. The .au space has traditionally been a highly restrictive space yet the AUDA is considering draft recommendations to relax some of its current restrictions.

We believe the existing first in, first served registration model has proven itself to be a fair and open, low-cost, manageable system for both Registrars and InternetNZ. Concerns arising from IP infringements and disputes can effectively be dealt with by the legal system or by the DRS and it is not our view that the Registrar or the DNC should be burdened with regulation and compliance checks.

The introduction of registration restrictions is not the solution to preventing phishing scams. While online fraud is of concern to everyone in the industry, as mentioned in another submission, the domain name itself is rarely the reason for someone falling victim to the scam. If the domain name is of concern to the banking industry then they should consider banding together and applying for the moderated extension .bank.nz. They could then set about educating the public to always look for the .bank.nz extension before logging into the bank's web site.

A number of exploratory questions have been raised by the consultation paper regarding the implementation of such restrictions. These questions need to be answered by the organisations that proposed the changes as they illustrate just how difficult registration restrictions would be to manage.

Commercially, we could only expect registration restrictions to increase operating costs for Registrars and considerably increase the retail price of domain name registrations. This will be a cost that will be worn by the majority to protect (if at all) a minority.

END OF SUBMISSION