

Registrar Advisory Group

DATE: 03 February 2026, 9 AM to 10 AM NZ Time

ATTENDEES (DNC): Barbara Pearse, Commissioner (Chair)
Dylan Connolly, Operations Manager
Ann Ibrahim, Head of Technical and Relationships

ATTENDEES (InternetNZ): Josh Simpson, Product Infrastructure Lead
Isobel Egerton, Domain Name Policy Lead
Sonya Trompeter, Product Support Manager
David Parker, Business Operations Lead
Maria Skatova, Generate Manager

ATTENDEES (RAG Members) Lee Miller - Voyager
Neil Stockbridge - Metaname
David Grice - DIA
Melissa Tihiariki - TPP WholeSale
Prudence Malinki - Mark Monitor
Shaun Fisher - Vetta

APOLOGIES Rose Jamieson, General Manager, Public Impact
Tim Johnson, GM Customer and Product

AGENDA

A. DNC updates:

1. Welcome
2. Consent to take Gemini Meeting Notes from attendees.
3. Action items from 26 September 2025 meeting

Item	Owner	Status
<i>From 03 July 2025 Meeting</i> Consider an NDA for the advisory group	Tim to discuss with InternetNZ In-house Legal	To be done

<p>Circulate meeting minutes to participants for feedback</p> <p>Circulate to Registrars with feedback (if any) incorporated</p>	<p>Ann</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Uploaded to the DNC's website under the new RAG page.</p>
<p>Guidance from the DNC regarding the change of registrant process, in line with the obligations set out under the .nz Rules.</p>	<p>DNC</p>	<p>Incorporate into DNC training and guidance document to implement in FY 26/27 to registrars.</p> <p>DNC will run two training sessions open to all .nz registrars over two different time zones.</p> <p>Liaise with InternetNZ Policy Lead whether .nz Rules changes may be required for clarity on expectations (eg; physical documents required or are any alternative options acceptable?)</p>
<p>Guidance from DNC on the process in case of deceased domain name holders</p> <p>And</p> <p>Consider comms to lawyers (& trustee coys) about dealing</p>	<p>DNC</p>	<p>Incorporate into DNC training and guidance document to implement in FY 26/27 to registrars.</p> <p>DNC will run two training sessions open to all .nz registrars over two</p>

with domain names as part of estate administration		different time zones.
Re-establish the advisory group webpage on DNC's website	DNC	Done

4. Phishing email campaign and comms.
5. Presentation on data, figures and themes based on last quarter.
6. Heads up about upcoming [.iwi.nz](https://www.iwi.nz) registrar changes and what it means in the .nz domain name space and for .nz registrars.
7. Proposed upcoming RAG meeting dates for the calendar:
 - a. Virtual: Wednesday 06 May 2026 at 9 AM.
 - b. Virtual: Wednesday 05 August 2026 at 9 AM.
 - c. In person and virtual during the .nz registrar summit.
 - d. Virtual: Wednesday 10 February 2027 at 9 AM.

B. InternetNZ Updates

- Engagement & key themes to date for the Malicious Use strategy.
- Authorisation Agreement & Connection Agreement re-signing with the deadline of 17 March 2026.

C. Registrar Updates

D. Action Items and Closure

MEETING MINUTES

The Commissioner welcomed the attendees and updated on the status of action items. DNC has established a new webpage for the advisory group representatives. The Commissioner noted that the DNC will run education and guidance on the .nz rules after April, incorporating feedback on items like the change of registrant and deceased domain name holder processes.

Review of Change of Registrant Process suggestion that the change of registrant process required updating, rather than just training, due to its dated nature, which requires written confirmation, to ensure everyone is on the same page. The Commissioner agreed InternetNZ may need to consider whether any .nz rules changes were required and requested InternetNZ Policy Lead consider this in conjunction with the rules program for the next financial year.

Email Phishing Campaigns Alert The Commissioner alerted members to two recent email phishing campaigns targeting domain name holders around renewals, affecting two registrars. The DNC plans to send out communications this week to registrars to encourage them to proactively warn domain name holders about suspicious emails that contain links to click on and provide credit card details or to pay fake invoices for domain name renewals. One member confirmed that they were affected by this campaign and highlighted the danger of these scams asking for credit card details, though login details would have been even worse, and they went out with a message encouraging MFA (Multi Factor Authentication).

DNC Data Figures and Malicious Use Trends DNC provided an update on its data validation and identify verification audit numbers, suspensions and themes identified by the DNC through complaints and malicious use.

Top Classifications of Domain Name Misuse and Urgent Audits The top three classifications of domain names flagged for audit are brand impersonation, phishing, and fake web shops that sell counterfeit goods or do not send purchased goods. DNC noted a 33% increase in audits compared to the previous financial year and highlighted seeing repeat offenders, with 701 unique domain name holders out of 979 audits. Urgent or high harm registrations included 24 government-related domain names and nine banking-related domain names audited this financial year.

Third-Party Verification Process and Registrar Concerns A member mentioned complaints about websites offering services for the New Zealand electronic traveler authority (ETA) to overseas visitors at inflated prices, noting that few are NZ domains. Other members raised concerns about the use of a third party for identity verification and requested a demo of the process at the next meeting, emphasizing the need for clarity on how much information goes to the third party and how privacy is maintained. The DNC agreed to provide a demo at the next meeting and noted information about the identify verification process was also on its website.

Registrar Input on Audit Communication and Compliance A member requested a publicly available resource on the DNC website to help registrars educate customers about the audits, requirements, and data handling processes. Other members stressed the need for the DNC to provide extensive information on their process, especially when third parties are involved, so registrars can inform clients to expect the correspondence and avoid them ignoring it as spam or phishing. DNC agreed to circulate existing website information and ensure the link is included in the initial email to the registrar.

Regulatory Requests for Domain Name Information DNC reported an increase in requests from police or other regulators/agencies for domain name historical information over the last six to eight months. Members would like a FYI/heads-up from the DNC but acknowledged it may not always be possible to share that information if requested under a search warrant etc.

Update on .iwi.nz Moderated Space and New Registrar Appointment DNC advised the moderator, Tū Ātea Limited, has designated a new registrar to carry out initial [.iwi.nz](https://www.iwi.nz) domain name registrations (Big Noise Group trading as KiwiData). Once registered, [.iwi.nz](https://www.iwi.nz) DNHs are able to either remain with KiwiData or transfer out to any registrar to manage their domain name. DNC noted that DNHs are not able to transfer a [.iwi.nz](https://www.iwi.nz) domain name to any other DNH unless the moderator has approved it in accordance with the Moderation Policy.

A member questioned who is responsible for stopping a self-service change of DNH if the system allows it, to ensure the moderator's approval is obtained. DNC will make enquiries with InternetNZ technical team to establish whether any block or red flag can be implemented in the registry system or not.

InternetNZ Updates

Malicious Use Strategy Engagement Update InternetNZ gave an update on the malicious use strategy engagement, which included meetings with technologists, cyber security experts, private notifiers, and government agencies like the FMA and the Commerce Commission. Key themes from the engagement included low abuse on .nz, support for interventions to keep .nz safe, the high trust in .nz which makes investment scams rare but concerning, and the preference for pre-registration processes to eliminate high harm registrations. InternetNZ highlighted the development of safe harbor legislation MBIE are looking at to provide legal protection for organisations (ISPs, Telcos, banks) who take action against scams in good faith.

Next Steps for the Malicious Use Strategy The five-year strategy will be presented to the InternetNZ board in March and any changes to the .nz Rules will involve full public consultation for each initiative. The top priority for the first year is to speed up data validation for high-certainty problematic registrations using a new tool that predicts and flags them for early validation without waiting for misuse.

Connection and Authorization Agreement Update InternetNZ updated the group that InternetNZ and DNC are progressing with signing the updated connection and authorization agreement, with a deadline of 17 March. As no questions had been received despite reminders, InternetNZ queried members if a webinar or Q&A session was needed or not? Members indicated that the agreements were straightforward and registrars would likely provide feedback after review by their legal teams.

Registrar Updates

.kiwi Domains and IRS a member asked about the progress of any partnership for .kiwi domains to be resold through registrars, as discussed at the registrar summit. InternetNZ confirmed that this is still a live idea and within the realm of possibility, but it is not on the immediate roadmap and requires a consultation process regarding rules. InternetNZ committed to providing an update within the next three to six months.

2026 Meeting Dates and Registrar Summit The Commissioner provided proposed dates for the next tranche of meetings in 2026: Wednesday, May 6th, and Wednesday, August 5th, both at 9:00 a.m. A Registrar Summit will also be held between September and early November, and the final meeting for the financial year is scheduled for February 10th 2027 at 9:00 a.m. A member supported holding an advisory group meeting during the summit again, citing

the value of in-person attendance. InternetNZ confirmed that they are trying to narrow down the summit dates, factoring in international conferences.

Action Items - 03 February 2026

Item	Owner	Due date
DNC to send a notice to registrars about email phishing campaigns targeting domain name holders around renewals.	Ann	05 Feb 2026
DNC to give a demo of the third-party verification service and provide an overview of that service to registrars at the next registry advisory group meeting.	Dylan	06 May 2026
Save the date for the Registrar summit	Maria	Before 06 May 2026
Follow up on a non-disclosure for the advisory group.	Tim/David	TBC
Look at the change of registrant process in conjunction with potential rule amendments as part of the rules program.	Isobel/DNC	TBC
Update and circulate the link to the existing website information on user education of audits, requirements, and what to expect and ensure that information is included in the initial email sent to the registrar.	Dylan	TBC
Registrars to provide any thoughts or requests for particular topics to cover at meetings	All RAG Members	Before 06 May 2026