

CEO's Report

auDA Activities and Progress – 2005

The last 12 months have seen auDA commence and complete a wide variety of tasks as well as continue the day to day management of .au and the second level.

Last November and December, the Board approved the Name Panel and Competition Review Panel reports and auDA staff set about implementing the recommendations.

In February and again in September of this year AusRegistry reduced the price they charge registrars for com.au and net.au domain names by \$5 and in May auDA dropped its domain name fee to from \$7.50 to \$5.50. This means that the auDA domain name fee has almost halved and the overall price to registrars for a com.au domain name has been reduced by 40% since the introduction of the new auDA managed regime in 2002.

In March we commenced the Registry tender process by publishing the draft technical specification for comment.

In April for the first time, we suspended a registrars accreditation. The dispute with that registrar went to mediation and was eventually settled when the registrar agreed to cease operations in .au.

In May we commenced the process of releasing the commercial geographic names. That process is still being finalised but current indications are that around \$1,500,000 will be available to fund the Community Geographic Names organisation that auDA will set up to facilitate and approve applications for community geographic names. We anticipate that the organisation will be operational early next year with the names being launched shortly thereafter.

We have also spent considerable time and effort on security issues within .au and the second levels. These are constantly under review and we liaise frequently with various federal government departments and agencies.

The latter part of this year has also been taken up with the time consuming and all important Registry tender process. At the end of October we announced that AusRegistry was the preferred tenderer and I am delighted to be able to announce that auDA and AusRegistry have this morning signed the new Registry Licence Agreement.

The next 12 months are panning out to be equally hectic with a full auDA constitutional review scheduled as well as public consultations on the close and substantial connection rule.

Thank you.