

● 19 December 2025

Dr Jill Slay AM
Independent Reviewer of the *Security of Critical Information Act 2018*
Department of Home Affairs
Canberra ACT

Subject: Input to the Independent Review of the *Security of Critical Information Act 2018*

● Dear Dr Slay

The .au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) thanks the Department for the opportunity to provide input to the Independent Review of the *Security of Critical Information Act 2018 (the Act)*.

For the Independent Reviewer's awareness, auDA plays a critical role in administering Australia's country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD). The .au domain name system auDA operates was recognised as critical infrastructure as part of the 2021 amendments to the Act. For further information about auDA and its role, please see **Appendix 1**.

auDA seeks to comment on the ministerial direction in the case of a cyber incident. auDA reiterates its previous stance as outlined in its [submission on the 2024 cyber security legislative reform package](#) lodged in February 2024 (see Measure Six, relating to Part 3A of the Act) that the safeguards do not provide appropriate oversight:

While we welcome the requirement for the Minister for Home Affairs to consult with an affected entity, we seek further clarification of how the legitimate interests of an entity subject to the direction would be considered, particularly where the entity was not involved in the initial cyber incident.

We would be happy to discuss our views on the review of the Act. Should you or your team have any queries, please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Appendix 1: About auDA

The .au Domain Administration Limited ([auDA](#)) is the trusted administrator of the .au country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD). The .au ccTLD is part of Australia's critical communications infrastructure, supporting more than 4.2 million .au domain names. auDA is endorsed by the Australian Government to administer the .au for the benefit of all Australians under its [Terms of Endorsement](#).

As a critical part of the digital economy, auDA's role is to ensure the .au ccTLD remains stable, reliable and secure.

Additionally, auDA performs the following functions:

- Administering a licensing regime for .au domain names based in multi-stakeholder processes, including:
 - Developing policies for the .au domain with a multi-stakeholder approach to provide the greatest benefit for the Australian community
 - Managing enquiries from the public about the .au Licensing Rules
 - Maintaining an appropriate compliance and dispute resolution process associated with the .au Licensing Rules
 - Making limited information available on the holder of a domain name licence through a publicly accessible tool at <https://whois.ada.org.au/> (a standard feature of domain name systems around the world and an essential element of online accountability)
- Accrediting registrars to provide domain name registration services to the Australian internet community
- Advocating for, and actively participating in, multi-stakeholder internet governance processes both domestically and internationally.

In performing its functions, auDA operates under a multi-stakeholder model, working closely with the technical community, suppliers, business users, industry, civil society, consumers and the Australian Government.