
Chief Executive's Report

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Purpose of paper: Report for the two months to 30 November 2014

Introduction

This report sets out critical risks or other risks Council should be aware of, my priorities in the period since the October Council meeting, planned priorities for the three months from now until the end of February 2015, longer range priorities, and a brief update on staffing and contractor issues.

Papers that form part of this report are attached as follows:

- Business Plan Report to 30 November 2014
- Internet Issues Programme Report to 30 November 2014

As always, feedback from Councillors, members or anyone else on the content of this report is very welcome.

1: Critical / Other / Potential Risks

There are no critical risks to advise the Council of at the reporting date.

During the strategy generation and budget planning process we have looked carefully at the staffing required to deliver the functions we are set out. The current structure in community engagement and issues development is too lean, and as a result staff in those core areas are depending on contractors, and to be frank are overworked. The risk arising is not meeting our aim of being a good employer through people working long hours and beyond capacity.

Mitigating this risk requires resourcing changes as proposed in the budget paper being considered at this Council meeting. The financial impact is modest, but important.

2: Recent Priorities

Chief Executive

Since the October meeting of the Council, I have been focused on the following issues, generally in descending priority order:

- Strategy and business planning and budget preparation for next year
- .nz Stewardship matters, particularly preparation of new Statements of Expectations and conclusion of the .nz Framework review process
- Completing the assembly of the governance policy framework
- Involvement with the membership working group set up by Council

- A busy round of stakeholder engagement in connection with NetHui South and more broadly
- Recruiting a new events lead following Krystal Waine's departure
- Completing mid-year performance reviews with staff
- Attendance & participation at the ICANN meeting in Los Angeles in October (a part attendance, as was in USA for family reasons on leave otherwise) – an ongoing focus on ICANN accountability.

There were no planned priorities identified by me for focus in the previous report that have not progressed as expected.

Operating team

The Business Plan Report and Internet Issues Report set out the progress the team has been making on progressing the Business Plan. I welcome feedback from Council members as to what is incorporated there.

I draw Council's attention in particular to the following:

Community Engagement and Funding:

- Successful execution of NetHui South in Christchurch
- Launch of the Canterbury projects grants round
- Completion of the Internet Projects and Conference Attendance grants rounds

Internet Issues:

- Preparation for engagement on post-2020 telecommunications regulatory regime
- Ongoing copper broadband pricing work
- Hills, Holes and Poles launched
- Upcoming engagement with Hon Amy Adams on a range of telco issues

Identity:

- Website almost completed and ready to launch barring some final testing
- Internal communications review under way

Other details are in the reports, which I encourage you to read.

3: Priorities for the next three months

Chief Executive

The following are my planned broad areas of focus in the period to the end of February, in priority order:

1. **Business Plan:** the Group Strategy being adopted at this meeting leaves me free to focus on planning how to implement it. We are having a team planning retreat in early February to finalise a draft Business Plan for Council consideration.
2. **Subsidiary and .nz stewardship:** three aspects will demand attention: developing the “.nz policy” arising from the .nz Framework review; ongoing discussions regarding an MOU between MBIE and InternetNZ regarding .nz; and finalising changes to the copyright situation for .nz WHOS data.

3. **The new Government:** between the date of this report and the Council meeting we will have meetings with Hon Amy Adams and Hon Paul Goldsmith regarding communications and intellectual property policy matters respectively. With the structure of the current government very similar to that of the previous, the relationship building focus is less than it would have been had there been a change of government.
4. **Governance policy framework:** the focus on this shifts to agreed reviews for the coming Council meetings and development of the remaining gaps (PDP and Treasury policies).
5. **APRICOT 2015:** I will attend the APRICOT meeting in Japan in February helping spread the word about our hosting of the event in 2016, and ensuring we are across all the organisational requirements for our hosting.
6. **International:** ICANN accountability remains my focus, through participating in the Working Group being established to discuss this. I have also been appointed by ICANN's ccNSO as a co-chair of the working group dealing with Internet Governance - this is a liaison and information sharing role.

I will be taking a month's leave over the Christmas break, and expect to come back from that refreshed and with a clear focus for 2015. This does mean there is less work time for me to progress things than is usual between Council meetings.

I particularly welcome Council feedback on my priorities, and on any other matters that need to be picked up and advanced.

Operating Team

- **Community Engagement:** Preparing for the event for Internet researchers in February, and planning for NetHui 2015
- **Community Funding:** Starting the Internet Research round, and completing the Canterbury round.
- **Internet Issues:** network neutrality, State of the Internet report, FPP work, RealMe project.
- **Identity:** New website completed and launched; internal communications review completed.
- **Core operations:** new team allocation of responsibilities in place.

More detail of what is coming up is available in the Business Plan and Internet Issues Reports, which set out scheduled dates for all the tasks in the plans.

4: Longer Range Priorities

The big picture issues on my mind, in no particular priority order at this stage, are again fairly similar to those set out in my previous report, and are:

- **Team and Group culture and dynamics:** getting the best bang-for-buck across the group is important, and there are some self-imposed limitations we should sort out.
- **Identity:** living up to the new brand identity and "spreading the word" on this, so that our public profile becomes clearer.
- **Making business development work:** the strategic direction for our business development efforts needs clarity and drive - and this will be an area for focus for me next year.

- **Role of and relationship with Members:** there is a good deal to do to better understand our members and develop a stronger culture of respect and inclusion among them.

I expect to have more to say on longer range priorities at the first meeting in 2015.

5: Staffing and Contractor matters

Krystal Waine was farewelled as events lead on 30 October.

Yvonne Shelton is our new events lead, and she will be starting on 12 January 2015.

During my Christmas break, outside the shutdown **Andrew Cushen** will be Acting Chief Executive.

6: Other matters

- The Christmas shut down will see the InternetNZ office closed from 24 December, reopening on Monday 5 January 2015.
- We have agreed to host the Australia New Zealand Internet Awards (ANZIAs) in 2015, and are working towards a date in August or September with an event in Auckland (resources are set out for this in the draft Budget paper).

It has been a long and very busy year, and along with the rest of the team I am looking forward to the summer holidays.

I welcome questions, comments and feedback on the content of this report or on any other matter.

Finally, since it is that time of year, Season's Greetings!

Jordan Carter
Chief Executive

28 November 2014