Chief Executive's Report

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Purpose of paper: Report for the two months to 31 January 2015

Introduction

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

Andrew Cushen was Acting Chief Executive from 18 December to 25 January, and did an exemplary job in leading the organisation in my absence. I would like to record my thanks to him for being a reliable deputy who is, after only eight months in his role, able to step up in this way. The section of this report dealing with priorities since the last meeting is largely his work.

I am back refreshed and eager to really see our team deliver in 2015/16.

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

- Business Plan Report to 31 January 2015
- Internet Issues Programme Report to 31 January 2015

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.

2: Recent Priorities

Chief Executive
The December/January period is obviously a quieter time of year, and our delivery reflects this. Since the December meeting of the Council, Andrew has been focused on the following issues, generally in descending priority order:
- Business Planning for 2015/16
- Refinement of strategy following Council feedback
- Engagement and response to price rises from major Telcos in January 2015.
- Induction of Yvonne as new Events lead.
- NetHui 2015 contract negotiations with SkyCity
- End of year close down and start of year start up.

While travelling in Europe for my summer break, I also conducted a number of meetings including:

- Participation in ICANN's Accountability working group meeting
- Discussions with Nominet, CENTR and Afnic on ICANN accountability issues
- A dinner with ISOC staff in Paris, and a visit to ISOC premises in Geneva

There were no planned priorities identified for focus in the previous report that have not progressed as expected, apart from any substantive work on the .nz MOU with the New Zealand Government. This will be a focus in the next period.

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:

- Preparations for the delivery of the NZ Internet Research Forum Event
- NZNOG held successfully
- Stage One of Canterbury Projects Community Grants Round complete
- Internet Research Community Grants Round 2014/15 progressed/launched
- Meetings with potential Strategic Partners to draft proposals underway

Internet Issues:

- The release of the Net Neutrality "Pre-Public Discussion Document" to members and selected internal stakeholders;
- Holding another MBIE stakeholder engagement session, and being invited to participate in the CEO level forum on the same
- Submission on the Section 30R review of UBA.

Identity:

- Launch of the new InternetNZ website
- Development of a new external reporting methodology

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 April, in priority order:

1. **Business Plan:** developing the Draft Business Plan matters agreed at this meeting into a workable, exciting plan of activity for the organisation in 2015/16, including through the membership engagement process to come in March.

2. **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.

3. **Subsidiary and .nz stewardship:** three aspects will demand attention, noting that there was not a great deal of progress on this in the past two months: 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.

4. **Members:** assisting with the work of the Membership working group and implementing the findings as they arise and are agreed among members to improve what our team does in this area.

5. **Business development:** working with NZRS to kick off the strategy development under the Strategic Plan's requirement for new thinking in this area.

6. **Our team:** with new arrivals in place or pending, there will be work to draw the team together, and to set up really good performance and training plans for 2015/16. The latter will be done by the time of the next Council; the former will be ongoing through the year.

7. **Governance policy framework:** proceeding with the work agreed at the December 2014 meeting, which concludes in April.

8. **Our reintroduction:** as part of the twenty year celebrations, it is timely to effectively reintroduce InternetNZ to stakeholders, with our new brand and clearer focus. This will be an ongoing task through the year, but will commence in the coming three months.

9. **Stakeholders**: I need to do a round of stakeholder engagement in the next few months after an overly-busy end of 2014.

10. **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. As well, I will be helping progress the work of developing our updated International Strategy and plan.

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

While I realise this is a long list of things to be thinking about, none of these are particularly optional, and I will manage my time appropriately in progressing them.

Operating Team
In general, the team will be further developing the 2015/16 Business Plan and translating that into work plans for the coming year, while completing as much as possible of the 2014/15 plan. Besides this, the following priorities are evident:

- **Community Engagement**: Planning for NetHui 2015 will be the main focus.
- **Community Funding**: Starting the Internet Research round, and Conference Attendance rounds, along with negotiation of new Strategic Partnerships.
- **Internet Issues**: Network neutrality, State of the Internet report, FPP work, 2020 telco regulatory framework, and RealMe project remain at the forefront.
- **Identity**: Revised and updated communications plans in place, new Work Update publication in use, internal communications review completed.
- **Core operations**: new team allocation of responsibilities in place and plan being developed from here.

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:
- **Securitisation:** I believe that in 2015 there will be an increasing tendency on the part of states to continue to use national security rationales to undermine the open Internet. Understanding this and its implications is important for us.
- **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.

5: Staffing and Contractor matters

Yvonne Shelton, our new Events Lead, started on 12 January 2015. She has already made impressive progress on integrating with the InternetNZ team and subsidiaries, and in getting started on planning an excellent NetHui 2015.

Andrew Cushen was, as noted, Acting Chief Executive between the 18th of December and 25th of January.

In general, staff have had an excellent start to 2015, with a very enjoyable energy and productivity in the office.

Recruitment is under way for two Internet Issues advisors, and we are planning to recruit another staff member later in the year to focus on community. This will see the team filled out to the expected extent that will allow delivery of the 2015/16 Business Plan.

6: Other matters

- None to report.

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

In closing – Happy New Year!

Jordan Carter
Chief Executive

29 January 2015