# Chief Executive's Report

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| **Purpose of paper:** | Report for the two months to 31 March 2015 |

## Introduction

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

It is worth noting that in the first quarter of this year, we have completed almost all of the commitments set out in the 2014/15 Business Plan; prepared the 2015/16 Activity Plan and Budget, met with members to discuss plans for the coming year, and been involved in a wide range of other activities in New Zealand and internationally.

It has been a cracking busy start to the calendar year, and our job in the operating team in the next quarter is to be very focused on making sure we are well set up for the methodical, manageable implementation of the new year's plan.

I also want to thank Andrew Cushen again for his work as Acting CE during my absence at APRICOT and at the ICANN meetings during the period of this report.

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

## Reporting changes

Rather than attaching reports to this CE report as we have done in the past, for this meeting we present a set of management reports as follows:

- Internet Issues Programme Report
- International Report
- Business Plan Report

all for the two months to 31 March 2015.

From the start of the 1 April year, our intention is to provide different reporting: only key issues in each of the above areas will be directly reported to Council, with more detailed maps of activity posted on the website where anyone can access them. This will help ensure that Council time and attention is focused on the most important issues, and mean that there is less reading to be done for each meeting.

## 1: Critical / Other / Potential Risks

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

## 2: Recent Priorities

*Chief Executive*
Since the February meeting of the Council, I have been focused on the following issues, generally in descending priority order:

- Activity and budget planning for 2015/16
- Preparations for major events in 2016 – APRICOT in particular
- Working on options to restore the group to common premises
- Discussions with officials regarding a possible .nz MOU
- Reviewing and re-ordering the governance policy framework
- Copyright in the .nz register, where matters are almost resolved
- Participating in ICANN accountability matters

Between the date of this report and the Council meeting, I will also have made progress on two other matters:
- Membership group
- Māori engagement group

A number of the priorities identified in the February report have not been advanced, for the reasons set out:

| Priority not advanced | Explanation |
|---|---|
| Business development strategy | Time commitments have not allowed this to be advanced, first discussions happening in April and on target to bring a strategy to the June meeting. |
| Performance plans for 2015/16 | These are a couple of weeks late due to the very busy start to the year, but will be completed in April. |
| Reintroduction campaign & stakeholders | This combined item is a little behind in development with more preparatory work still to do. |

All these matters are picked up in my priorities for the coming quarter.

*Operating team*
The separate reports on the Internet Issues and Community programmes, Interational and Business Plan set out the detail at this meeting. We will discuss those reports at the appropriate place on the agenda.

I will note here that it has been a very busy start to the year across all areas – on Internet issues (copper pricing, network neutrality); community (holding the Internet research forum, planning for NetHui, negotiating new Strategic Partnerships); events (APRICOT 2016); communiciations (a much more aggressive schedule of blog posts, and a new newsletter publication being introduced).

A more measured pace is needed as we commence the 2015/16 Activity Plan in the coming quarter.

## 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 June, in priority order:

1. **Work Plan:** with the Activity Plan for 2015/16 signed off, we will finish the work of scheduling all the activities it contains, and align staff performance plans with these requirements – in particular to ensure a sustainable workload for all team members.
2. **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. There are some quick changes we can implement in April that will help in this area.
3. **Business development:** working with NZRS to kick off the strategy development under the Strategic Plan's requirement for new thinking in this area.
4. **Stakeholders:** "selling" the work we do and making best use of our newly refreshed identity will take a fair amount of my time in the coming quarter.
5. **Subsidiary and .nz stewardship:** two areas of focus here: developing the ".nz policy" arising from the .nz Framework review; ongoing discussions regarding an MOU between MBIE and InternetNZ regarding .nz.
6. **Our team:** I anticipate three new staff starting in the April-June period – two Internet Issues advisors and one community staffer. These will likely form the last changes required to build the staff team we need.
7. **International:** ICANN accountability remains my focus, through participating in the Working Group being established to discuss this. I will also progress the work of developing our updated International Strategy and plan.

I particularly welcome Council feedback on my priorities.

*Operating Team*
The following priorities are evident:

- **Team wide:** finishing preparation of the work plan for the year, aligned with the 2015/16 Activity Plan, and making sure reporting reflects this.
- **Community Engagement**: NetHui 2015 will go from planning to full implementation in this quarter, with a particular focus on the programming, sponsorship and marketing aspects.
- **Community Funding**: Creation a Community Grants Policy Framework and preparations for the Projects Round will be occurring in this quarter.
- **Internet Issues**: Completion of hiring process for Issues Advisors; completing outstanding work items from 14/15 Business Plan, particularly State of the Internet Portal and Net Neutrality; commencing delivery of 2015/16 Activity Plan.

- **Core operations**: new team allocation of responsibilities in place and plan being developed from here; ongoing development of communications and events plans for the year ahead (and in particular a good deal of advance planning for APRICOT).

## 4: Longer Range Priorities

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

- **Team and Group culture and dynamics:** getting the best bang-for-buck across the group is important, and restoring common premises will help with this.
- **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.
- **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.

## 5: Staffing and Contractor matters

As noted above, recruitment is in progress for our Internet Issues positions, and is pending for the Community position.

In general, people have been very busy in the first few months of the year.

## 6: Other matters

- None to report.

As a final note, the commitments I have had to travel in the last quarter have been less than ideal in terms of presence in the office and for the team, and in Wellington generally. I am hugely looking forward to being on deck and around for the coming few months without the disruptions and distractions inevitably caused by international travel commitments.


Jordan Carter
**Chief Executive**

31 March 2015