

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION - Drafting Guidelines 2024

# Constitutional Review: what you said about the draft objects

## Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide feedback on what you said about the draft objects made available to members for testing in November 2024.

## Background

Early in the Constitutional Review programme, we undertook several engagements with members, Council, interested parties and the codesign group to support drafting proposed objects for the Society. That feedback was taken into account in the drafting of the initial iteration of proposed objects. Since then we’ve undertaken another round of engagements which helped inform the next iteration of the proposed objects, which are presented in the Drafting Guidelines. These engagements focused on understanding member and community views through surveys, online drop-in sessions and some face to face work with community partners.

## What you said.

In the members’ survey about the objects we asked two questions about support for the proposed objects, and alignment of values and reasons for joining InternetNZ.

Overall, 60% of respondents rated support of the proposed draft objects between 3 and 5 with 5 being strongly in support. Forty per cent of respondents rated either 1 or 2 on the scale, not supporting the objects.

Seventy (70%) per cent, said the draft objects moderately to strongly aligned with their values and reasons for joining InternetNZ.

## Feedback on overall approach.

Many of the comments were about specific objects and in particular vocabulary choices and framing. In terms of feedback on the new proposed objects as a whole:

* There were comments from 2 members of the co-design group noting they are comfortable that the proposed objects struck more of a balance between the technical and social aspects related to the Internet.
* One InternetNZ member advocated for making more iterative changes to the current objects, while noting some changes would be required, for example around online harm and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
* There were a handful of member comments which supported the direction of travel: “Looks very good. Thank you for driving InternetNZ back in the right direction.”

External stakeholders largely supported the objects; they considered them to be more modern. However, their feedback broadly aligned with the feedback received through the surveys, particularly around things they felt were missing from the draft objects.

Additionally, they felt the draft objects did not feel aspirational or forward thinking, or acknowledge the nature of the Internet being constantly evolving and developing.

## Words and concepts people thought were missing.

We received comments about things people thought were missing from the Objects. In particular, we received at least one comment expressing concern about:

* The term “wider Internet community” being removed
* Removal of mention of education and research
* The removal of histories and archives in 2.4 and 2.6
* Removal of the term “uncapturable”.
* A lack of a mention of being future-focused or taking an intergenerational approach

## Words and concepts that were unclear or questioned.

* **Uncapturable.** There were comments about the removal of this term from the objects, and they were not all in agreement. Some liked its removal, some wanted to retain it.
* **Develop and provide work programmes.** There were a number of comments about this framing and whether it needed to be there. Some concern was raised about the perception of more internal-focused work being developed.
* **Objects relating to the technical aspects of our role.** Many felt these weren’t clear and were the same thing as expressed in the first iteration. Generally these were seen as being tech-agnostic and not clear enough in relation to the vast technical role we play as a ccTLD.
* **An Internet that benefits.** The use of the word ‘benefits’ was seen by some as unclear. What are the benefits of the internet to people? And how can InternetNZ provide them?
* **Clearer language needed.** Much of the feedback provided really focused on questioning language used and ensuring that it was clear. These included works like ‘certain’, ‘ensure’, ‘accessible’
* **Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi**. A small number (2) did not support the inclusion of this commitment.
* **Multistakeholderism and community engagement.** There were a number of comments throughout the feedback around wanting to see “community” engagement reflected, and also questions about whether government engagement was adequately reflected in this draft object.

## The next iteration.

The next iteration took into consideration a wide range of feedback. On the next pages we provide the current objects, the first draft proposed objects and then the objects which are proposed to go into the revised Constitution of InternetNZ. The drafting guidelines outline the key changes to the objects, and also provide draft definitons for key concepts like open, resilient etc.

### Our current objects

1 To promote the competitive provision of Internet access, services and facilities in an open and uncaptureable environment.

2 To develop, maintain, evolve, and disseminate standards for the Internet and its inter-networking technologies and applications.

3 To develop, maintain, evolve and disseminate effective administrative processes for the operation of the Internet in New Zealand.

4 To promote and conduct education and research related to the Internet and inter-networking.

5 To coordinate activities at a national level pertaining to good management of centralised systems and resources which facilitate the development of the Internet, including but not limited to the Domain Name System.

6 To collect and disseminate information related to the Internet and inter-networking, including histories and archives.

7 To develop and maintain formal and informal relationships with the international Internet community, including the Internet Society.

8 To represent the common interests of the wider New Zealand Internet community both nationally and internationally.

9 To promote widely and generally available access to the Internet.

10 To liaise with other organisations, New Zealand Government authorities, and the general public for coordination, collaboration, and education in effecting the above objects.

### First draft iteration of the Proposed Objects

* Promote and contribute to an open, fair, resilient and safe internet.
* Develop and provide programmes of work to ensure the internet is accessible and barriers to access are removed.
* Promote, support and enable work programmes to establish and uphold certain standards in relation to online harm.
* Maintain the domain name system and have the highest possible availability.
* Maintain the domain name system to high standards to reflect a world-class ccTLD.
* Develop and provide programmes of work and relationships to promote an internet that benefits all of Aotearoa.
* Develop and maintain key relationships with Māori to inform the development of the internet to benefit all of Aotearoa New Zealand, and uphold our commitment to centring Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
* Promote and actively participate in multi-stakeholder Internet governance processes domestically and internationally.

### Final Proposed Objects as outlined in the Drafting Guidelines

1. Promoting and contributing to an open, global, resilient and secure Internet for current and future generations
2. Promoting and supporting an Internet that users experience as fair, safe and accessible, including by upholding standards related to the harms people experience on the Internet
3. Maintaining the .nz domain name system to meet local and international standards and obligations
4. Promoting and conducting research related to the development of the Internet
5. Upholding our commitment to centering Te Tiriti o Waitangi in our work, including by developing and nurturing relationships with Māori and respecting tikanga
6. Promoting and actively participating in multi-stakeholder Internet governance processes locally and internationally
7. Collaborating with, and coordinating across, the wider New Zealand Internet community, the general public, New Zealand government agencies, and other organisations when giving effect to the above objects