



SENATOR THE HON HELEN COONAN

**Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate**

28 FEB 2007

Mr Vint Cerf
Chairman of the Board
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
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Dear Mr Cerf

Proposal to create .XXX sTLD

I am writing to express the Australian Government's strong concerns over the decision by the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Board to reconsider the application from ICM Registry, Inc (ICM) proposing the creation of a new .XXX sponsored top level domain (sTLD).

The Australian Government remains strongly opposed to any measures that may result in an increase in the amount of illegal and offensive content on the Internet.

Australia has a longstanding goal of implementing policies that aim to reduce the volume of offensive material online and the unsolicited exposure to it. In 2000 Australia introduced an online content scheme which banned the hosting of X-rated and restricted content and established a complaints based mechanism to manage individuals or organisations that violate this policy. Internet Service Providers and Content Hosts are subject to enforceable industry codes of practice. In June 2006 the Government announced a national scheme to make free Internet filtering software available to every Australian family.

The creation of an "adult content" sTLD would be clearly inconsistent with these measures and Australia's policy goals. The Australian Government representative on ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) has consistently opposed the creation of the .XXX sTLD and will continue to do so.

The Australian Government remains unconvinced that the submission by ICM for this new TLD represents any benefits to the wider Internet community, or from a public policy perspective.

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It is appreciated that the ICANN Board has the authority and responsibility to make operational decisions relating to the creation of new TLDs. I would however like to reiterate Australia's strong opposition to the creation of a .XXX STLD.

I would encourage ICANN to take into account Australia's concerns and those of other countries who do not support this proposal at its next Board meeting scheduled for 13 March 2007.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Coonan', written in a cursive style.

HELEN COONAN

cc. Dr Twomey
CEO ICANN