Ms Kathy Reid   21 June 2018
President, Linux Australia
Via email: president@linux.org.au

Dear Linux Australia Grants Team

Australian Internet Community – planning a way forward

An informal group of interested stakeholders is working together to develop a plan for a sustainable national initiative that will – in the future – provide opportunities for the Australian internet community to discuss and address internet governance issues.

The work of this group aligns with Linux Australia's values to ensure that open technology is available to all regardless of background or circumstances, and to ensure more diverse representation in technology policy decision making.

But, importantly, we are hoping that Linux may be able to contribute a small sum to cover the travel arrangements of some participants.

Background

The Australian Internet Governance Forum (auIGF) ran for five years from 2012-2016. The idea of the auIGF was based on the Global IGF – to bring government, industry and community members together in an open, apolitical, multi-stakeholder environment, to exchange ideas and best practice around Internet governance.

The auIGF was organised, hosted and supported by .au Domain Administration Ltd (auDA), with input from other key stakeholders. After the 2016 auIGF, auDA announced that its future facilitation of the auIGF would cease.

At a meeting of Australian Internet community stakeholders convened in May 2017 by the Australian Ambassador for Cyber Affairs, Dr Tobias Feakin, there was general consensus that an auIGF-type event would be of benefit in facilitating discussion and consultation on Internet governance issues.

In October 2017, the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officially launched Australia's International Cyber Engagement Strategy. In it, the government notes that Australia is an advocate for a multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance, and that the government will "Support an annual community-led Australian Internet governance and cooperation forum" (point 5.02, page 61).

Planning a way forward

An informal group of interested stakeholders is now working together to determine what an "annual community-led Australian Internet governance and cooperation forum" might look like, and how to ensure such a forum remains sustainable in the longer term.

The informal group consists of:
- The independent Chair (Sandra Davey – funded by DFAT)
- An independent secretariat (ACIG – funded by DFAT)
- Representatives from the Australian Government Department of Communications and the Arts
- Representatives from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Volunteer representatives from the following organisations:
  - Internet Australia
  - APNIC (Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre)
  - ACCAN (Australian Communications Consumer Action Network)

- o EFA (Electronic Frontiers Australia)
- o auDA

Single-day workshop, in Canberra

The group plans to hold a single-day workshop, in Canberra, to develop a plan for a sustainable national initiative that will – in the future – provide opportunities for the Australian internet community to discuss and address internet governance issues.

The Canberra meeting is not, itself, to be a forum for capacity building, or the discussion of internet governance issues.

The informal group is currently working together to develop an agenda for the day and prepare a list of people to invite to participate in the single-day planning workshop.

The informal group is aiming to have around 50 invited participants on the day, and will try to ensure:

- that the people who come to the Canberra meeting are the people with enough seniority, expertise and resources to take on the initiation of a national forum;

- participants at the Canberra meeting are diverse and representative of the Australian internet community; and

- that all participants understand what they are expected to work towards, and achieve, at the Canberra meeting.

The single-day planning workshop is scheduled for Thursday 19 July, at the Hotel Kurrajong, Barton, ACT.

The outcome of the meeting will be an agreed plan for a sustainable national initiative that will – in the future – provide opportunities for the Australian internet community to discuss and address internet governance and cooperation issues, many of these technical in nature.

Representation and Civil Society

There are people we believe need to be represented in the strategy development process that otherwise do not have the means to participate. While many participants have organisations or employers that are able to cover accommodation and travel, others do not. We are seeking support to provide for five individuals that collectively represent:

- improved gender diversity;
- regional representation;
- civil society;
- open-source and community technology advocates;
- independent journalism; and
- youth representation.

These are not token participants, their contribution ensures increased diversity of representation which we believe is crucial in shaping how technology policy decision making might work.

We know the voices of women and those without the economic means to evenly participate reduces the effectiveness of multistakeholder engagement at a time when internet, technology and open technology policy is having an increased impact on society and policy development.

Grant Funding Request

A detailed breakdown of costs is provided as an attachment to this letter, and a summary is provided below.

We are seeking travel funding for five individuals.

Accommodation: $500 : (quote 1 night 18/7/18 - + fees) Note not all five travellers need accommodation, however we have sought a quote that would provide an option if others are travelling from the region/distance and they need a place to stay.

Flights: $2922 : 5 return flights: Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Tamworth

Proposed total: $3500

The funds can be disbursed in any way that suits you best, but we suggest that a lump sum is forwarded to the group's independent secretariat, ACIG, for distribution to the relevant participants. Funds can be transferred to the following account.

Business Bank Account Name	ACIG Pty Ltd
Business Bank Account BSB	033-002
Business Bank Account Number	35-8402
Email address for remittance advice	info@acig.com.au

Conclusion

Through exploring an Australian Internet Community Forum model, we seek to strengthen the voice and collaboration between civil society and open technology communities when working in a multistakeholder framework around policy and social issues relating to technology.

I do hope that Linux, as a key stakeholder, can help us to ensure that a diversity of representatives can contribute to planning a new way forward for Internet governance in Australia. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sandra Davey

Sandra Davey
Independent Chair, Australian Internet Community Forum Planning Committee.

Attachment – Detailed Breakdown of Costs

Preferred accommodation choice

5 Bedrooms $500 - proposed choice - most bedrooms and closest to venue
https://www.airbnb.com.au/rooms/21954597?location=Barton%20ACT%2C%20Australia&guests=4&adults=4&children=0&toddlers=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-07-18&check_out=2018-07-19&s=Z63nIl7w

Other accommodation options

4 Bedroom $463.
https://www.airbnb.com.au/rooms/10620960?location=Barton%20ACT%2C%20Australia&guests=4&adults=4&children=0&toddlers=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-07-18&check_out=2018-07-19&s=Z63nIl7w

6 Bedrooms $442
https://www.airbnb.com.au/rooms/6404512?location=Barton%20ACT%2C%20Australia&guests=4&adults=4&children=0&toddlers=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-07-18&check_out=2018-07-19&s=eteXIj09

Preferred Flights

Quotes from Webjet 18/6/18 – Fly in to Canberra on 18/7/18, and out 19/7/18.

$460 Adelaide to Canberra return
$229 Virgin: 16:10 ADE - 18:15 CBR
$229 Virgin 18:55 CBR - 20 ADE

$665 Tamworth to Canberra return
In 18/7/18 - out 19/7/18
$232 Virgin: 15:30 Tam- 1705 Cbr
$434 Virgin: 1705 Cbr - 1950 Tam

$951 Perth to Canberra return
In 18/7/18 - out 19/7/18
$543 Qantas: 1545 Perth - 2135 Cbr
$408 Qantas: 18:55 Cbr - 21:35 Perth

$506 Melbourne to Canberra return
In 19/7/18 - out 19/7/18
$207 Qantas: 0700 Melb - 0805 Cbr
$299 Virgin: 18:30 - 19:40

$340 Sydney to Canberra return
In 19/7/18 - out 19/7/18
$155 Virgin 0705 Syd - 0805 Cbr
$185 Virgin 1835 Cbr - 1935 Syd