



Ann Jones
Director of Business Performance
Queensland Competition Authority
Level 27, 145 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4001

6 November 2024

Dear Ann,

Aurizon Network Pty Ltd - Access Undertaking Timeline

Aurizon Network is writing to the Queensland Competition Authority (**QCA**) to confirm its commitment to continuing to operate under a voluntary Access Undertaking for the regulatory term commencing 1 July 2027. This is proposed to be achieved through either a negotiated Draft Amending Access Undertaking, amending and extending the current approved 2017 Access Undertaking (**DAAU**), or through the submission of a Draft Access Undertaking (**DAU**) for the new regulatory period.

Capitalised terms in this letter have the meaning given to those terms in the 2017 Access Undertaking unless otherwise defined.

Aurizon Network is aiming to submit either a DAAU or a DAU to the QCA by Quarter 2 Financial Year 2026. To that end, Aurizon Network has already commenced engagement with stakeholders of the Central Queensland Coal Network (**CQCN**) including End Users, Train Operators, Port Precincts, non-coal customers and Queensland Rail (**Stakeholders**) earlier this year, and we have had weekly meetings with a representative group of End Users over the last number of months. Further meetings are planned over the following months.

This proposed submission timeline:

- allows Aurizon Network to complete its engagement to seek to resolve matters directly with our Stakeholders prior to submission;
- allows for the completion of any financial matters for the year ending 30 June 2025 that are relevant to the submission; and
- is informed by the QCA's timeline and process for the Queensland Rail 2025 DAU.

Aurizon Network considers that a key requirement for the development of the regulatory arrangements for the next term is robust engagement with our Stakeholders through a transparent consultation approach. To assist, Aurizon Network has developed the attached Access Undertaking Engagement Plan which has been shared with Stakeholders and the Independent Expert.

The UT5 Draft Amending Access Undertaking approved by the QCA in December 2019 (**UT5 DAAU**), was a package of voluntary financial and operational amendments to the previously approved 2017 Access Undertaking, developed through a negotiation with customers.

We consider that this timeline should allow sufficient time for the QCA to complete its required consultation and approval process as required by the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (Qld). Aurizon Network will provide regular updates to the QCA throughout calendar year 2025 leading up to its submission.

Being a complex, multi-stakeholder engagement, Aurizon Network acknowledges that there will remain a role for the QCA in the approval of any DAAU or DAU submission.

Should you have any queries in relation to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Windle on jon.windle@aurizon.com.au

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pam Bains', is positioned above the typed name.

Pam Bains
Group Executive Network
Aurizon Network Pty Ltd