

STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

31 August 2018

Progress to final decision — Aurizon Network's 2017 draft access undertaking

Today, the QCA has decided to delay its final decision on Aurizon Network's 2017 draft access undertaking, pending resolution of the judicial review proceedings on its December 2017 draft decision.

It is disappointing that Aurizon Network has asked the QCA to delay finalising its decision in September 2018. However, the QCA acknowledges that Aurizon Network continues to pursue its judicial review application.

Preparation of a final decision

As part of the QCA's consultation process, the QCA released a draft decision on Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU in December 2017, which is now subject to proceedings in the Supreme Court of Queensland. The Court has set a hearing commencing on 22 October 2018.

Separately from these proceedings, the QCA continued with its task of assessing Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU, with the view to progress towards a final decision, in a timely manner.

On 20 August 2018, the QCA notified Aurizon Network that it expected to be in a position to make, and then issue, its final decision on Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU on, or shortly after, 20 September 2018.

On 24 August 2018, Aurizon Network advised the QCA that it was opposed to the QCA issuing a final decision on Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU. Aurizon Network noted that while there are benefits to all parties from minimising further unnecessary delay, some delay is inevitable and indeed necessary and prudent.

QCA will delay its final decision—pending the outcome of Court proceedings

The QCA considers that there are clear benefits in its final decision being made as soon as practicable.

However, given Aurizon Network continues to pursue its judicial review application on the draft decision, the QCA has decided to delay making its final decision on Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU until after the Court has made its judgement.

While regrettable, the QCA considers this approach is nevertheless required at this time. The QCA is confident that it will be in a position to progress a final decision after the Court has made its judgement.