

STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

23 June 2022

Aurizon Network's Concept Study DAAU — Stakeholder notice

On 8 June 2022, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) received a draft amending access undertaking (DAAU) from Aurizon Network seeking to amend the process for resolving identified capacity deficits set out in the 2017 Access Undertaking (UT5). The proposed amendments seek expressly provide for a staged implementation of proposed initiatives to address capacity deficits, including to:

- facilitate further studies be undertaken prior to the independent expert providing its recommendation (or the QCA making its or determination)
- provide for the independent expert to consider other factors in making its recommendation
- enable Aurizon Network to recover all reasonable costs of undertaking further studies, where required.

Statutory requirements

Under Section 143(3) of the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 (QCA Act), the QCA may only approve a DAAU if (among other things) it has published the DAAU, invited submissions on it and considered any submissions received within the time provided.

We have published Aurizon Network's Concept Study DAAU on our website (www.qca.org.au) and invite submissions from interested parties. The closing date for submissions is 21 July 2022.

Time periods

In accordance with section 147A(2) of the QCA Act, the QCA must use its best endeavours to decide whether to approve, or refuse to approve, a DAAU within six months from the day that is two weeks from the day the undertaking was given to the authority.

The six-month period does not include any of the following periods:

- a day in the period given by the QCA for making submissions in relation to a DAAU or a related document
- day(s) agreed to, by the owner or operator of the service or the responsible person, as not being included in the six-month period.

The six-month period commenced on 8 June 2022 and is scheduled to end on 20 January 2023. However, the end date may be extended to account for any future periods of time that are excluded from the statutory timeframe in accordance with section 147A of the QCA Act, including any further consultation periods.

An updated notice of time-periods will be issued detailing any changes to the stated timeframe for assessing Aurizon Network's Concept Study DAAU.

Submissions

Closing date for submissions: 21 July 2022

Public involvement is an important element of the decision-making processes of the QCA. Therefore submissions are invited from interested parties concerning its assessment of Aurizon Network's Concept Study DAU. The QCA will take account of all submissions received within the stated timeframe.

Submissions, comments or inquiries regarding this paper should be directed to:

Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
Brisbane Q 4001

Tel (07) 3222 0555

Fax (07) 3222 0599

www.qca.org.au/submissions

Confidentiality

In the interests of transparency and to promote informed discussion and consultation, the QCA intends to make all submissions publicly available. However, if a person making a submission believes that information in the submission is confidential, that person should claim confidentiality in respect of the document (or the relevant part of the document) at the time the submission is given to the QCA and state the basis for the confidentiality claim.

The assessment of confidentiality claims will be made by the QCA in accordance with the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997*, including an assessment of whether disclosure of the information would damage the person's commercial activities and considerations of the public interest.

Claims for confidentiality should be clearly noted on the front page of the submission. The relevant sections of the submission should also be marked as confidential, so that the remainder of the document can be made publicly available. It would also be appreciated if two versions of the submission (i.e. a complete version and another excising confidential information) could be provided.

A confidentiality claim template is available on request. We encourage stakeholders to use this template when making confidentiality claims. The confidentiality claim template provides guidance on the type of information that would assist our assessment of claims for confidentiality.

Public access to submissions

Subject to any confidentiality constraints, submissions will be available for public inspection at our Brisbane office, or on our website at www.qca.org.au. If you experience any difficulty gaining access to documents, please contact us on (07) 3222 0555.