

Declaration request: North Queensland Export Terminal

22 May 2026

On 13 June 2025, the Queensland Competition Authority received a request seeking declaration of the coal handling service provided by the North Queensland Export Terminal (the Terminal), pursuant to Part 5 of the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (QCA Act).¹

On 14 July 2025, we began an investigation, and stakeholders were asked to provide submissions on the declaration request.

On 26 March 2026, we published our draft recommendation on the declaration request.

Stakeholders have been asked to comment on this draft recommendation, and a period for cross-submissions will follow. We will have regard to those comments as we prepare the final recommendation, which we will provide to the Minister.²

Six-month time period

Section 79A stipulates that we must use our best endeavours to make our recommendation within 6 months from the day we receive a declaration request (with exclusions applying for consultation and information provision periods).

We have not made a final recommendation within the target 6-month period. Key reasons for this are:

- the investigation involves complex matters of fact, economic analysis and legal interpretation about a port facility that is a significant business, both in its own right and in its role in support of the coal industry, an important part of the Queensland economy
- substantial amounts of evidence have been provided by affected stakeholders, including the owner of the Terminal and the declaration request applicants, and it takes time to give their submissions proper consideration and to comply with natural justice
- the QCA Act requires us to provide reasonable notice to the parties before starting our investigation (and this notice period must be included when calculating the 6-month period).

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislative provisions are to provisions within the QCA Act.

² The Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training.

It has not proved possible to conclude the detailed investigation that is warranted within the target 6-month period.

The next stage of the process is the consultation on our draft recommendation that is already underway. Submissions on our draft recommendation are due on 12 June 2026, and there will then be an opportunity for further submissions responding to that first round.

We will move as quickly as possible to complete our final recommendation to the Minister, while giving proper regard to all the submissions we receive from stakeholders and to other evidence that we consider relevant to our assessment.

This advice is provided in accordance with section 79A(4).

If you have any questions, please contact Ravi Prasad on 07 3222 0555.