

Notice of time periods

On 30 April 2013, the QCA received from Aurizon Network Pty Ltd (Aurizon Network) a draft access undertaking (the 2013 DAU) to replace the existing access undertaking that now expires on 30 June 2014. The QCA commenced an investigation into the 2013 DAU.

On 1 May 2013, the QCA sought submissions from stakeholders in respect of the 2013 DAU. At the request of a number of stakeholders, the QCA agreed to extend the submission date to 10 October 2013 (from 9 July 2013). The QCA received submissions from 10 stakeholders and published these on its website.

On 25 October 2013, the QCA published methodological papers on the Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) (incl. papers on the cost of debt, gamma and risk-free rate, the market risk premium and a second paper on gamma). Soon after, the QCA also published a paper on Aurizon Network on the cost of debt (based on Aurizon Network's proposed WACC averaging period of 20 business days ending 31 October 2013).

In response to its request, the QCA received submissions on the WACC papers from 7 stakeholders by the due date of 20 January 2014.

On 29 November 2013, Aurizon Network provided a submission to the QCA seeking to address the concerns raised by stakeholders on the 2013 DAU. Stakeholders were also given the opportunity to provide comments on Aurizon Network's response and 9 submissions were received by 20 January 2014. The QCA published all submissions on its website.

On 29 January 2014, the QCA published 2 reports prepared by its technical consultants in relation to Aurizon Network's proposed operating and maintenance costs. The QCA has invited stakeholders to comment on these by 17 February 2014.

All papers and submissions will be considered for the QCA's consideration of Aurizon Network's 2013 DAU.

Time periods

In accordance with section 147A of the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (the QCA Act), the Authority must use its best endeavours to decide whether to approve or not approve a DAU within six months from the last day of the time for making submissions stated in the investigation notice.

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

- (a) a day in the period given by the Authority for making submissions in relation to a DAU or a related document
- (b) a day in the period where a person has been required to give information or produce a document in response to a notice given by the Authority under section 185 of the QCA Act
- (c) 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.

Six-month period for Aurizon Network's 2013 DAU

In accordance with section 147A(4) of the QCA Act, the Authority states the following time periods for Aurizon Network's DAU:

- (a) the six month period commences on 30 April 2013

(b) the six month period currently ends on 23 July 2014.

The six month period does not include the following days:

From	To	Total Days	Reason
30 Apr '13	10 Oct '13	163	These days were given by the QCA to Aurizon Network and interested parties to make submissions on the 2013 DAU.
26 Oct '13	20 Jan '14	86	These days were given by the QCA to Aurizon Network and interested parties to make submissions on the WACC papers and comment on Aurizon Network's response to stakeholder submissions.
31 Jan '14	17 Feb '14	17	These days were given by the QCA to Aurizon Network and interested parties to make submissions on the QCA's consultant reports on Aurizon Network's operating and maintenance costs.



Paul Bilyk
Director

31 January 2014