

STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

1 December 2015

Update to 2014 Draft Access Undertaking (2014 DAU) assessment timetable

As stakeholders will be aware, the QCA had planned to release a final decision on the 2014 DAU on 30 November 2015. Instead, the QCA has decided to issue a consolidated draft decision and invite submissions from stakeholders on it. There are a number of matters the QCA wishes to give further consideration to before making its final decision.

The QCA is mindful of having made a series of draft decisions throughout its consideration of the 2014 DAU on a number of separate matters that, in fact, are interlinked and would benefit from a final consolidated review by all stakeholders. The QCA is keen to achieve a final decision that represents an accurate, yet practical and pragmatic response, to issues currently facing rail users in Queensland and to do that as soon as possible.

The QCA's updated plan is to release the consolidated draft decision on 16 December 2015 and provide a consultation period of around 10 weeks, including the 2 week Christmas/New Year holiday (our updated timetable is below). QCA staff are available to meet with stakeholders throughout this period (except between 25 December 2015 and 4 January 2016 when the QCA offices are closed). While stakeholders can consult and comment on any aspect of the consolidated draft decision, the QCA is particularly interested in receiving comments on its approach on certain elements of the consolidated draft decision, which will be highlighted when it is issued.

In deciding to issue a consolidated draft decision, the QCA is mindful it is 15 months since Aurizon Network submitted its 2014 DAU. The QCA has given careful consideration to the impact this will have on the 2014 DAU timetable and approval process, also noting considerable time and effort has been expended by all stakeholders to date. The QCA has proposed substantive changes in its draft decisions on a number of matters and, given the impact on all stakeholders for potentially many years to come, considers a further round of consultation is appropriate. This will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to consider the DAU as a whole and comment on matters of particular interest and significance in that context.

The QCA is also conscious we are now well into the UT4 regulatory period and, as such, would be open to extending the term of UT4 beyond 2017 if Aurizon Network was minded to propose it, and stakeholders supported it. Any such proposal could provide for the MAR to be reviewed in 2017.

Updated 2014 DAU Assessment Timetable

Task	Indicative dates
Release of consolidated draft decision	16 December 2015
Consultation and submissions	16 December 2015 - 26 February 2016
Release of final decision	end April 2016