

STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

13 October 2017

Late information — Aurizon Network's 2017 draft access undertaking investigation

In September 2017, Aurizon Network submitted the following reports (late information) with respect to its 2017 draft access undertaking (2017 DAU):

- '*Estimating gamma within the regulatory context*', Frontier Economics (submitted 22 September)
- '*Best estimate of inflation for regulatory purposes*', CEG (submitted 22 September)
- '*Appropriateness of the external credit ratings*', Ernst & Young (submitted 22 September)
- '*Risk comparison between Aurizon Network and energy and water networks*', Synergies (submitted 22 September)
- '*The term of the risk-free rate*', Frontier Economics (submitted 29 September)
- '*An updated estimate of the market risk premium*', Frontier Economics (submitted 29 September)
- '*Required Returns for infrastructure assets – market based evidence*', Deloitte (submitted 29 September).

The QCA has published the late information submitted by Aurizon Network on the QCA's website, as well as associated correspondence.

While the information has been provided after the QCA's stated deadline for submissions, the QCA intends to take this material into consideration prior to any final decision in relation to the 2017 DAU.

The QCA is not seeking further submissions on this material at this stage of the investigation. Stakeholders will be provided with an opportunity to respond to the information, as well as the QCA's preliminary views, as part of the QCA's draft decision.

Consequences for the QCA's assessment timeframes

As outlined in the QCA's *Statement of Regulatory Intent*, all stakeholders are encouraged to provide information and submissions by the relevant due date to promote the timely consideration and assessment of Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU.

Processing the information provided by Aurizon Network outside of the QCA's structured consultation process will have consequences for the QCA assessment timeframes. An updated notice of time periods will be issued detailing any changes to the stated timeframe for assessing Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU, as required.

Late submissions - reminder to all interested parties

In accordance with section 168B of the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (QCA Act), the QCA may make a decision without taking into account late submissions, or other information provided by stakeholders after the stated deadline, if it is reasonable to do so.

We will consider whether to take into account late submissions on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the QCA Act. Where stakeholders provide late submissions or other information, they should also provide a detailed explanation as to why it would be reasonable to have regard to the late information.