

File Ref: 1281717

15 February 2018

Mr Nick Easy
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Rail
GPO Box 1429
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Mr Easy

Queensland Rail's 2020 Draft Access Undertaking

Thank you for your letter of 24 January 2018 seeking an extension of time for Queensland Rail to submit its 2020 Draft Access Undertaking (DAU).

The QCA has considered the request and approved a three-month extension under section 133(1)(b) of the QCA Act, to 31 July 2018.

This will allow Queensland Rail further time to consult with its stakeholders and reduce the number of policy differences, while promoting the objective of having an appropriate replacement undertaking approved before the 2016 undertaking terminates at the end of June 2020.

The undertaking approval processes in the QCA Act take a substantial amount of time. In order to provide natural justice to Queensland Rail and other stakeholders, the QCA provides ample opportunity for all parties to comment on the initial submission and on a draft decision, and for the QCA to have proper regard to those comments.

The QCA has planned the 2020 DAU process to provide the best chance of achieving a timely outcome, even in the face of unexpected events. We decided it would not be prudent to use up most of the contingency time before the DAU has been submitted.

We note that, while your letter focuses on the uncertainty surrounding future volumes on the West Moreton Network, the access undertaking addresses a wide range of other matters. These include, among other things, the negotiation process, regulatory reporting, the standard access agreements and operating requirements manual, and the network management principles. It would not be appropriate to unduly delay the process of considering the broad range of undertaking issues. That is why we have approved a three-month extension, rather than the six months you requested.

Indeed, the more early progress that can be made on non-tariff aspects of the undertaking, the better placed Queensland Rail, stakeholders and the QCA will be to focus on the West Moreton issues later in the investigation process, when the demand outlook becomes clearer.

In the coming months, we will publish a notice to stakeholders, providing more detail on the expected regulatory process. If you have any questions on matters related to the DAU, or more general Queensland Rail matters, please contact Stephen Wisenthal on 07 3222 0507.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Green', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Roy Green
Chair