

Central Queensland Coal Network System Rules

2025 Consultation Report
19 September 2025

Introduction

In accordance with clause 7A.7.4(b) of the 2017 Access Undertaking (**UT5**) Aurizon Network must review the System Rules at least once per year and where required, identify Proposed Amendments.

Unless otherwise defined, capitalised terms in this report have the meaning given to those terms in UT5.

The purpose of this Consultation Report is to summarise the outcomes from Aurizon Network's 2025 review of the System Rules. Aurizon Network has continued consulting on changes to its planning and scheduling processes following the success of the Daily Rolling Plan (**DRP**) Project, and, following stakeholder approval, its transition to Business as Usual (**BAU**) in February 2025. This has involved multiple stakeholder engagements, including:

- Continued weekly group forums with Affected Persons (that originally commenced in September 2023);
- The release of Proposed Amendments to the System Rules to Affected Persons on 14 July 2025;
- Additional direct one-on-one engagements with Affected Persons (where required) between July and August 2025; and

- Reminders for Affected Persons to provide written submissions regarding the Proposed Amendments during the formal consultation period that ended 8 August 2025. A total of 14 written submissions were received (copies of which have been provided confidentially to the QCA).

Aurizon Network carefully considered the feedback received from Affected Persons and as a result, recommends a number of variations to the Proposed Amendments (**Variations**).

The resulting Variations and Proposed Amendments are displayed via tracked changes to the existing System Rules and are appended to this Consultation Report.

Proposed Amendments

The Proposed Amendments were drafted to embed the DRP as BAU and improve/clarify other planning and scheduling processes. Feedback on the Proposed Amendments fell into a number of key themes which are discussed in further detail below.

Embedment of Daily Rolling Plan as BAU

The Proposed Amendments removed redundant references to the DRP trial as well as the previously approved System Rules which had been appended in case a reversion was required. No stakeholder objection was received.

TSE Consumption on Mine Cancellations

The Proposed Amendments removed the ability for a TSE-free mine cancellation in the 24 hours prior to midnight on the Day of Operation (**DoO**). That is, any mine cancellation made after the Agreed ITP would consume TSEs. This was proposed to incentivise more accurate demand into the IRP. Adjusting the TSE consumption window sought to release capacity earlier than 24 hours prior to midnight on the DoO, to enable other stakeholders to respond more effectively to unexpected changes.

Stakeholder Response

Whilst several stakeholders supported the proposal, there were concerns raised that it does not support ordering flexibility or responsiveness, and does not incentivise early cancellation if the TSEs will be consumed regardless of when they are cancelled. Some stakeholders also suggested it may encourage inaccurate reporting of cancellation cause.

Aurizon Network Assessment

Aurizon Network has noted the concerns of stakeholders and amended the proposal to allow for a more modest change, increasing the proposed period of notification required for a TSE-free mine cancellation from the current 24 hours to 48 hours prior to midnight on the DoO. Aurizon Network considers this to be a positive step towards improving system utilisation whilst still supporting order flexibility.

Additional Train Services

The Proposed Amendments sought to utilise latent supply chain capacity by providing that Train Services requested after the Agreed ITP would not consume TSEs under the relevant Access Agreement (**Free Additional**s).

Further, it was proposed that demand submitted into the IRP as Tier 4 would be treated as Ad Hoc, and therefore also not consume TSEs under the relevant Access Agreement.

Stakeholder Response

Several stakeholders supported both proposals, noting the potential to maximise supply chain utilisation and increase flexibility.

Some stakeholders expressed concern that Free Additional may push demand outside of the IRP, risking supply chain efficiency.

One stakeholder noted that the Tier 4 proposal would present implementation challenges, requiring significant alterations to existing systems and processes.

Aurizon Network Assessment

Aurizon Network has retained the Free Additional proposal and considers that the increased utilisation of latent supply chain capacity outweighs the risk of demand being pushed outside of the IRP.

Aurizon Network acknowledges that the Tier 4 proposal requires more consideration before it can be implemented due to its complexity and may be more appropriate for a future System Rules review.

IRP Model Selection

The Proposed Amendments sought to provide transparency around Aurizon Network's IRP model selection.

Stakeholder Response

Several stakeholders supported the drafting however considered a greater level of transparency was required. Other stakeholders considered KPIs for model selection should be included.

Some stakeholders opposed the ambiguity of the drafting, particularly regarding contracted TSEs.

Aurizon Network Assessment

Aurizon Network has refined the drafting to remove ambiguity relating to contracted TSEs and require the publication of relevant metrics (to be agreed through stakeholder consultation) alongside the selected daily IRP model.

Aurizon Network considers publishing every potential daily IRP model and its metrics for stakeholder analysis would be inefficient, given the volume of scenarios that can be modelled in a given day and the already tight planning timeframes.

Schedule Alterations

The Proposed Amendments sought to provide greater clarity around schedule alterations, particularly relating to TSE consumption.

Stakeholder Response

Several stakeholders considered the drafting required further simplification and clearer definitions.

Aurizon Network Assessment

Aurizon Network has simplified the drafting, removed the introduction of 'replacement' Train Services and clarified the point in time where a Train Service may no longer be cancelled.

Governance

The Proposed Amendments allow Aurizon Network to introduce or discontinue changes to the System Rules for the purpose of making improvements to systems or processes.

Stakeholder Response

Several stakeholders supported the concept however considered firmer consultation and governance was required. One stakeholder opposed the concept.

Aurizon Network Assessment

Aurizon Network has refined the drafting in response to this feedback.

Aurizon Network has demonstrated its commitment to consultation through the minor changes to process timeframes implemented throughout the DRP trial. These changes were undertaken through consultation with stakeholders and have been included for formal approval within the Proposed Amendments.

Delay and Cancellation Cause

The Proposed Amendments included more direct language on participation in the reconciliation process for delay and cancellation cause identification.

Stakeholder Response

Several stakeholders opposed the change and considered the current process is working well.

Aurizon Network Assessment

Aurizon Network acknowledges stakeholder feedback and is not progressing this item.

Good Faith Utilisation of System Rules

Stakeholder Response

A Proposed Amendment relating to utilising the System Rules in good faith was opposed by one stakeholder, who noted that it is essential for the System Rules to be clear in their application and not impose ambiguous constraints.

Aurizon Network Assessment

Aurizon Network agrees and is not progressing this item.

General – Drafting

Several minor clarifications were included within the Proposed Amendments that were unopposed by stakeholders, including:

- Update of key Network interfaces and their responsibilities.
- Update of Week 1 Forecast and Rolling Daily IRP/ITP sections to reflect current BAU timeframes and processes.

Considerations for Future Review

Several stakeholders made suggestions that Aurizon Network considers may be more appropriate for a future System Rules review (due to timing and/or the nature of the 2025 review), including:

- No TSE consumption for Tier 4 orders in the IRP.
- Cancellation data sharing to provide greater transparency.
- The introduction of TSE sculpting.
- Ability for End Users to submit Train Orders directly to Aurizon Network.

Conclusion

In accordance with clause 7A.7.4(e)(iii)(D) of UT5, Aurizon Network does not consider that the Proposed Amendments and Variations will have any negative impact on the delivery of each Affected Person's Train Service Entitlements.

The purpose of the Proposed Amendments and Variations are to embed the DRP as BAU and improve/clarify other planning and scheduling processes.