

STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

1 September 2017

Notice of time periods - Aurizon Network's 2017 draft access undertaking investigation

The QCA has updated the notice of time periods for the assessment of Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU, in accordance with our *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (QCA Act) obligations.

Collaborative consultation period

On 20 January 2017, we published a stakeholder notice providing stakeholders with an additional consultation period for collaborative stakeholder submissions. The collaborative consultation period provided stakeholders with an opportunity to present agreed positions to help inform our forthcoming draft decision.

Issuance of a notice to produce information under s. 185 of the QCA Act - maintenance information

The issuance of a notice to produce information under s. 185 of the QCA Act provides for a timely and structured approach for requesting information required for the QCA to adequately assess Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU.

On 10 April 2017, the QCA issued Aurizon Network with a statutory notice to produce additional information relevant to our assessment of the 2017 DAU in relation to its maintenance proposal. At this time, the QCA considered that the information available to it was insufficient to form a reasonable view on the merits or otherwise of Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU against the relevant criteria in s. 138 of the QCA Act and provide due consideration to specific matters raised in stakeholder submissions. This information was requested to be provided by 12 May 2017.

Following a request from Aurizon Network this period was extended to 31 May 2017.

Period of time agreed with Aurizon Network to be excluded - maintenance information

In response to requests from Aurizon Network, QCA staff have been participating in an information-gathering exercise in order to receive outstanding information and understand various issues in relation to Aurizon Network's maintenance proposal.

Aurizon Network has agreed to exclude the time period 31 May 2017 to 21 August 2017 to account for this information-gathering exercise.

Six-month statutory timeframes

In accordance with s. 147A of the QCA Act, the QCA must use its best endeavours to decide whether to approve or not approve a draft access undertaking within six months from the last day of the time for making submissions stated in the investigation notice. However, the six-month period does not include any of the following periods:

- a day in the period given by the QCA for making submissions in relation to a draft access undertaking or a related document
- 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 QCA under s. 185 of the QCA Act
- 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.

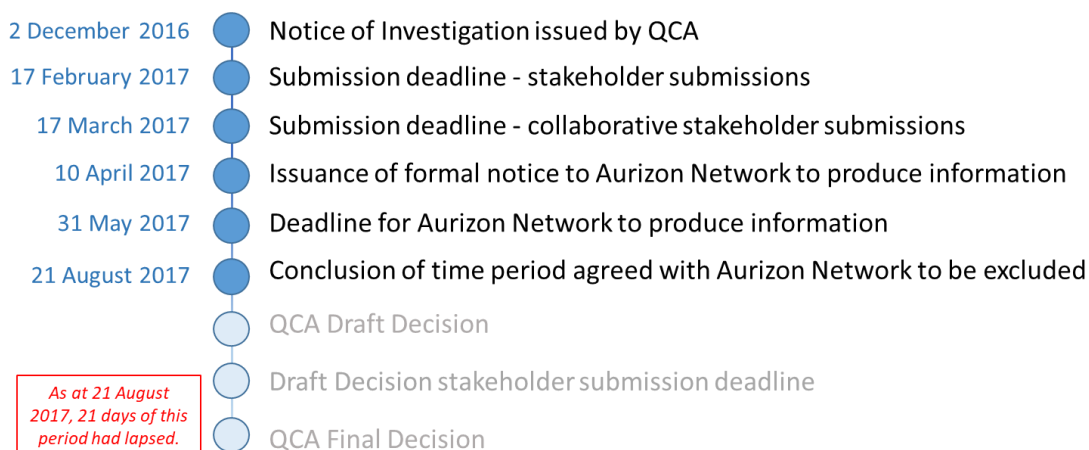
Six-month statutory timeframe for assessing Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU

In accordance with s. 147A of the QCA Act, the six-month period commenced on 17 February 2017, following the closing date for submissions on Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU.

The six-month statutory timeframe does not include the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">The collaborative consultation period	17 February 2017 to 17 March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Issuance of a notice to produce information under s. 185 of the QCA Act - maintenance information	10 April 2017 to 31 May 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Period of time agreed with Aurizon Network to be excluded - maintenance information	31 May 2017 to 21 August 2017

Six-month statutory timeframe for assessing Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU



The six-month statutory timeframe for assessing Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU is now scheduled to expire on 1 February 2018, but this date will be extended to account for any future periods of time that are excluded from the statutory timeframe in accordance with s. 147A of the QCA Act, including the scheduled stakeholder consultation period on the QCA's draft decision.

An updated notice of time periods will be issued detailing any changes to the QCA's timeframe for assessing Aurizon Network's 2017 DAU, as well as reasons for the change.

Charles Millstead

Chief Executive Officer