

STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

15 December 2022

Aurizon Network's GAPE and Newlands pricing DAAU — Updated notice of time periods

The QCA has updated the notice of time periods for the assessment of Aurizon Network's GAPE and Newlands pricing DAAU, in accordance with the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* (QCA Act).

Overview of regulatory process

On 2 September 2022, Aurizon Network submitted a draft amending access undertaking (DAAU) that seeks amendments, including adjustments to relevant reference tariffs, to reflect:

- a new cost allocation methodology for asset replacement and renewal expenditure in the shared rail corridor¹
- a change in the treatment of previously deferred expenditures.²

The GAPE and Newlands pricing DAAU was published on the QCA's website and submissions invited from interested parties.

On 15 December 2022, the QCA published its preliminary considerations paper on Aurizon Network's GAPE and Newlands pricing DAAU. The purpose of this paper is to provide an early insight into the QCA's thinking and encourage further contributions by way of submissions. Submissions from interested parties are invited by 10 February 2023.

Statutory timeframe for assessment

In accordance with section 147A(2) of the QCA Act, the QCA must use its best endeavours to decide whether to approve, or refuse to approve, a DAAU within six months from the day that is two weeks from the day the undertaking was given to the authority. 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 DAAU or a related document
- 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.

The six-month period commenced on 16 September 2022 and is now scheduled to end on 23 June 2023. The six-month period does not include the days given to Aurizon Network and interested parties to make submissions on:

- the GAPE and Newlands pricing DAAU (21 September 2022 to 2 November 2022)
- our preliminary considerations (15 December 2022 to 10 February 2023)

¹ From the Newlands Junction to the Port of Abbot Point.

² This expenditure relates to the Newlands system infrastructure enhancements (NSIE).

The end date may be extended to account for any future periods of time that are excluded from the statutory timeframe in accordance with section 147A of the QCA Act, including any further consultation periods. An updated notice of time periods will be issued detailing any changes to the stated timeframe for assessing Aurizon Network's GAPE and Newlands pricing DAAU.