

Infrastructure rebates and GAPE RCS DAAU

16 September 2024

On 13 September 2024, we received a draft amending access undertaking – its revised infrastructure rebates and GAPE RCS DAAU – from Aurizon Network seeking to:

- apply new arrangements for mine-specific infrastructure that has been funded by customers under an access facilitation deed – that applies a discount to the access charges payable (rather than a rebate on the access charges paid)
- include previously deferred investment relating to installation of remote control signalling (RCS) in the GAPE allowable revenue and reference tariffs from 1 July 2024.

It also updates revenues, tariffs and volumes to reflect the outcomes of the 2024–25 annual review of reference tariffs, along with the 2024–25 annual electricity energy charge.

The DAAU seeks to reflect and respond to our views on a proposal Aurizon Network had previously submitted (and we had refused to approve).¹

Statutory requirements

Section 143(3) of the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* provides that we may only approve a DAAU if, among other things, we have published the DAAU, invited submissions on it and considered any submissions received within the time provided.

We published Aurizon Network’s DAAU on our website and invite [submissions](#) from interested parties by 30 September 2024. Further details on making submissions are attached.

Period for approving the extension DAAU

In accordance with section 147A(2) of the QCA Act, we must use our 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 DAAU was given to us.

The six-month period does not include:

¹ On 22 August 2024, we decided to refuse to approve Aurizon Network’s initial proposal, as we considered that additional drafting was required to operationalise the proposed new arrangements.

- 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 commences on 27 September 2024 and is scheduled to end on 31 March 2025. Stakeholders will be notified if the end date is extended to account for any future periods of time that are excluded from the statutory timeframe, including any further consultation periods.

Submissions

Closing date for submissions: 30 September 2024

Public involvement is an important element of our decision-making processes. Therefore, we invite submissions from interested parties. We will take account of all submissions received within the stated timeframes. Submissions, comments or inquiries regarding this paper should be directed to:

Queensland Competition Authority

GPO Box 2257, Brisbane QLD 4001

Tel 07 3222 0555

www.qca.org.au/submissions/

Confidentiality

In the interests of transparency, and to promote informed consultation, we intend to make all submissions publicly available. However, if a person making a submission believes that information in it is confidential, they should claim confidentiality over the relevant information (and state the basis for that claim). We will assess confidentiality claims in accordance with the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997. Among other things, we will assess if disclosure of the relevant information is likely to damage a person's commercial activities, and we will consider the public interest.

Claims for confidentiality should be clearly noted on the front page of a submission, and relevant sections of the submission marked as confidential. The submission should also be provided in both redacted and unredacted versions. In the redacted version, all information claimed as confidential should be removed or hidden. In the unredacted version, all information should be exposed and visible. These measures will make it easier for us to make the remainder of the document publicly available. A confidentiality claim template is available at www.qca.org.au/submission-policy/

The template gives guidance on the type of information that may help us to assess a confidentiality claim. We encourage stakeholders to use this template when making confidentiality claims.

Public access to submissions

Subject to any confidentiality constraints, submissions will be available for public inspection at our Brisbane office or on our website at www.qca.org.au/. If you experience any difficulty gaining access to documents, please contact us on **07 3222 0555**.