

16 November 2018

Grant Kari
Regulated Access – Rail
Australian Competition and Consumer ACCC
GPO Box 520
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

By email: grant.kari@accc.gov.au

Dear Grant

Re: 2008 Interstate Access Undertaking Extension Application to the ACCC

I refer to the letter of 29 June 2018 in respect of ARTC's application to the ACCC to extend the 2008 Interstate Access Undertaking (IAU) until 21 December 2018 and the ACCC's published acceptance of this request on 25 July 2018.

ARTC seeks to further extend the IAU until 28 February 2019 by amending Clause 2.3(a). This amendment constitutes the replacement of the words "21 December 2018" with "28 February 2019". ARTC does not propose any further changes to the IAU.

ARTC submitted the 2018 IAU for consideration by the ACCC on 6 March 2018. The 2018 IAU as lodged essentially continues the same framework of access regulation as has existed on the Interstate Network for the past 16 years.

The freight rail industry exists in a dynamic environment and is subject to strong modal competition from road and sea. This industry context means it is imperative that ARTC's customers have certainty of contractual arrangements covering network access.

This further extension provides a 3½ month period for the ACCC to conclude its deliberations on the 2018 IAU. ARTC believes that this is sufficient time for a final decision to be reached on the renewed 2018 IAU and therefore sees no reason that any further extension of the 2008 IAU could be required.

Yours sincerely



John Fullerton
Chief Executive Officer