

			
ADJUDICATION – FILE NOTE			
Date:	20 November 2007	Participants:	<i>QR National:</i> Warren Phillips Neil Buckley
ACCC Officers:	David Hatfield Hew Atkin	Time:	9:30am
Subject:	Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal – authorisations A91060-A91062		

On 20 November 2007, ACCC staff met with representatives from QR National regarding Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd's (DBCTPL) application for authorisation of their queue management system (QMS).

ACCC staff explained that no concerns had been raised in submissions responding to DBCTPL's application, but the ACCC was interested to clarify some issues; particularly the nature and extent of any impact the QMS has had and is likely to have on:

- the volume of coal exports through the Terminal
- appropriate investment in coal chain capacity (including investment in above rail) and
- the likelihood of competitive entry in the provision of above rail services.

Staff from QR National (QRN) made the following comments:

There has been no lack of investment in the Goonyella coal chain whilst the QMS has been in operation.

- QRN has made a number of large investments in rolling stock over the last couple of years.
- The move away from even railings with permanent port stockpiles to cargo assembly campaign riling at Dalrymple Bay has introduced additional congestion into the rail system which has impacted on rail capacity.
- If DBCTPL berthed ships out of turn-of-arrival sometimes, it would provide greater flexibility with rail scheduling and increase system throughput capacity.
- QRN is focused on the needs of their customers and has taken steps to bring on additional capacity to cater for market variation
- A number of QRN's existing rail contracts were negotiated at a time when the primary objective was to maximise asset productivity and minimise costs.
- QRN is in the process of negotiating new rail contracts with coal producers that better reflect the operating methodology of the port.
- The QMS can lead to more even shipping throughout the year and enable increased total throughput and greater discipline to coal chain operations.