



Attn: David Hatfield, Jaime Martin
ACCC
23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

Via email to: david.hatfield@acc.gov.au; jaime.martin@acc.gov.au; exemptions@acc.gov.au

16 February 2024

Dear David, Jaime,

RE: Hunter Valley Coal Chain Coordinator (HVCCC) application for authorisation AA1000658 – interested party consultation

On behalf of Aurizon Operations Limited (Aurizon) in my capacity as GM of Aurizon's NSW and SEQ Coal Operations, I am writing to express Aurizon's support for the application for authorisation (Application) made by Hunter Valley Coal Chain Coordinator (HVCCC) of activities which will ensure the ongoing efficient operation of coal exports from Newcastle. As a rail operator in the Hunter Valley and a member of HVCCC, Aurizon provides efficient haulage services to mining customers that are facilitated by the smooth functioning of the coal supply chain and contends that authorisation of the Application will have a positive impact on the industry and the overall economy.

The Application reflects the need to continue to address the current inefficiencies and bottlenecks that hinder the optimal operation of coal exports from Newcastle. The coal industry plays a critical role in Australia's economy, contributing significantly to export revenues and providing employment opportunities for thousands of Australians. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to ensure that the coal supply chain operates efficiently and effectively.

HVCCC's activities and measures, such as capacity and operational planning, Day of Operations Live Run functions, ongoing requirements to improve rail scheduling plans, enhanced coordination among stakeholders, Coal Chain performance reporting and streamlining processes, are essential for the smooth flow of coal exports from Newcastle. By addressing the current challenges and adopting these measures, we can expect improved productivity, reduced operational costs across the supply chain, and increased competitiveness in the international market.

Efficient coal exports from Newcastle will not only benefit the coal producers and exporters, but also have positive implications for the wider community. The industry's success translates into economic growth, job creation, and increased government revenues. Moreover, a well-functioning coal supply chain will contribute to energy security and stability, ensuring a reliable and affordable energy supply for both domestic and international consumers.

Aurizon supports HVCCC's continuous improvement approach in identifying the key issues which result in the less efficient use of assets and then proposing practical solutions to resolve the issues. Its' expertise and knowledge of the coal supply chain makes it well-suited to lead the efforts in improving the efficiency of coal exports from Newcastle.

In conclusion, Aurizon urges the ACCC to carefully consider and authorise the Application to ensure the ongoing efficient operation of coal exports from Newcastle. Authorisation will, if granted, unlock the full potential of the coal industry, drive economic growth, contribute to continuing regional investment and employment in the Hunter Valley and ensure a sustainable energy future for Australia.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at Daniel.Kadziela@aurizon.com.au.

Kind regards,

Dan Kadziela
GM Operations - NSW & SEQ