

Media Release

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Aurizon and Telstra collaboration eliminates black spot in mobile upgrade west of Sarina

Local residents and motorists passing between the central Queensland townships of Sarina and Nebo will benefit from a significant upgrade to mobile telephone coverage following the completion of a joint telecommunications project between Aurizon and Telstra.

The black spot area west of Sarina contained the largest section of Aurizon's central Queensland rail network without mobile phone coverage, which had safety and operational impacts for employees operating in the area.

Aurizon Acting Executive Vice President Network Clay McDonald said the Company was pleased to collaborate with Telstra to bring to fruition a telecommunications project that would have been otherwise unviable.

"It's been a genuine win-win for our Company and the local community with big benefits for safety and productivity," Mr McDonald said.

"For the first time we have mobile reception along one of the most highly trafficked routes in the Goonyella Coal System. Telecommunication connectivity along this 40-odd kilometres of track is a game changer in terms of our ability to communicate with our people working or travelling via road along this stretch," Mr McDonald said.

"Emergency service operators, other rail operators using the track and local residents and businesses also benefit from this much-needed boost to mobile coverage in the region west of Sarina."

Mike Wright, Group Managing Director of Networks at Telstra said, "Telstra is pleased to collaborate with Aurizon to deliver this boost to mobile communications infrastructure in the area. This is part of our ongoing investment and commitment to delivering leading telecommunications to rural and regional Australia."

Aurizon provided the bulk of funding for the upgrade and Telstra has committed to the ongoing maintenance of its mobile phone network infrastructure, which was installed at designated Aurizon sites along the rail corridor.

For more information, please contact:

Brand & Communications: media@aurizon.com.au