

# Media Release

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**Date:** 9 June 2017

## Aurizon announces senior management change

Aurizon Managing Director & CEO Andrew Harding today announced a new senior management team appointment to support the transition to a new organisational structure effective 1 July, 2017.

Mr Harding announced the proposed structure in March which will see Aurizon shift from a functional based model to a business unit model designed along the core areas of the business – Network, Coal, Bulk, and Intermodal as well as central support and planning functions.

He said the business unit model would help drive transformation efforts with greater efficiencies, improved customer service and productivity improvements.

“While appointments to a number of roles are still being finalised I am pleased to announce today that Michael Riches has been appointed as a direct report to me as the new Group Executive for Network,” Mr Harding said.

“Michael is an experienced executive with extensive regulatory and legal experience in Australia. Most recently he has held several senior roles at Alinta Energy. Prior to joining Alinta Energy, Michael spent six years as a partner at Clayton Utz and before that over 11 years at Minter Ellison.

“Our regulated network business is a key part of our business portfolio and Michael’s experience in negotiating regulatory outcomes will assist in driving reform for the benefit of Aurizon and our customers.

“The successful negotiation of our fifth rail Access Undertaking (UT5) with the Queensland Competition Authority will be one of the first priorities for Michael.”

Mr Harding said the current head of the Network business Alex Kummant would be departing Aurizon this month and he thanked him for the significant contribution he had made to Aurizon over the past five years.

“Alex joined Aurizon in 2012 and has served in a number of key management roles. As the head of Strategy, he helped shape our strategic direction as we continued our transition out of government ownership and expanded our national footprint with new customers and markets.

“More recently he helped to oversee the finalisation of our fourth Access Undertaking (UT4) in Network.”

Mr Harding said he understood the recent changes the company had proposed, particularly to reduce its operating footprint in Queensland, were very difficult for affected employees and communities.

He said however that these changes, combined with the shift to the business unit model, were essential for Aurizon to remain competitive in challenging market conditions and to support future growth.

**For more information, please contact:**

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## Michael Riches Group Executive Network

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Michael is an experienced executive with extensive regulatory and legal experience in Australia.

Most recently he has held several senior roles at Alinta Energy. These included:

- leading the strategic review and closure program of the Flinders coal fired power stations and associated coal mine in South Australia.
- leading the retail markets business (managing over 800,000 customers).
- leading the regulatory affairs, government and investor relations, media, company secretarial and the legal functions.



Prior to joining Alinta, Michael was a partner at Clayton Utz for six years and earlier, Minter Ellison for 11 years, the last four as partner. His principal areas of practice were M&A finance, particularly leveraged finance private equity buyouts, project finance of major infrastructure, and corporate finance. Michael was recognised by industry and general publications as an expert in these practice areas.

As a Partner at Clayton Utz Michael held the role of Head of the National Banking and Finance Department, comprising more than 25 partners and was elected to the Board of Clayton Utz in 2008.

Michael was also a Director of the listed Jetset Travelworld business when it merged with the Stella Travel business.

