



# Aurizon Network Pty Ltd

ABN 78 132 181 116

**Financial Statements for Below Rail Services provided  
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

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## About this report

Aurizon Holdings Limited (Aurizon), has established its organisational structure to facilitate the separation of the management of Rail Infrastructure from the above rail operation of Train Services. To this end, Aurizon Network Pty Ltd (Aurizon Network or the Company), a wholly owned subsidiary, was incorporated on 11 July 2008, responsible for the provision of Below Rail Services including:

- (i) Access to Aurizon Network rail network and the negotiation and administration of all access agreements;
- (ii) Managing Aurizon Network's assets including infrastructure maintenance, renewal and enhancement; and
- (iii) Network operations including train control and scheduling, emergency response and incident management and investigation.

Aurizon Network is obligated under sub clause 3.8 of Aurizon Network's Access Undertaking to prepare financial statements for Below Rail Services provided by Aurizon Network and under sub clause 10.4.1 of Aurizon Network's Access Undertaking, publish those financial statements. In order to prepare financial statements of the Below Rail Services, there are certain adjustments to include below rail transactions captured outside of the Aurizon Network legal entity and exclude non-below rail transactions that have been accounted for within the Aurizon Network legal entity. The Below Rail financial statements do not therefore reflect the statutory financial position of Aurizon Network.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Costing Manual and take the form of a Statement of Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation and accompanying notes. This financial report supplements other reporting as required by the Access Undertaking, including the maintenance reports and Regulatory Asset Base (RAB) roll-forward.

As this report is prepared based on accounting records (refer Note 1 Basis of Preparation) in accordance with the Costing Manual, there are certain amounts and balances which will differ from those associated with an economic/regulatory framework. For example:

- (i) Insurance expense represents amounts paid to the Aurizon Group for the amount it determines as Aurizon Network's share of the Group's insurance policy. This does not necessarily represent the expense for a stand-alone insurance policy for Aurizon Network, on which the allowance has been based.
- (ii) Operating and Maintenance allowances include a return on assets as compensation to Aurizon Network for the non-RAB assets deployed in the provision of the operating and maintenance services, primarily mechanised plant.
- (iii) Operating and Maintenance allowances include some costs which are incurred however no regulatory allowance is received.

Although capitalised for accounting purposes, plant depreciation costs associated with the mechanised ballast undercutting renewal costs have been included within Infrastructure maintenance expense to allow comparability with the maintenance allowance which includes this as a direct maintenance cost.

## Key events and transactions for the reporting period

The financial position and performance of the Company was particularly affected by the following events and transactions during the reporting period.

### Access Revenue

#### *2017 Access Undertaking*

The 2017 Access Undertaking (UT5) approved by the QCA on 19 December 2019 included an increase in the WACC from 5.90% to 6.30% upon the Company notifying the Chair of the Rail Industry Group (RIG) of its proposed options to address any capacity deficits identified in the Initial Capacity Assessment Report (ICAR) of the CQCN completed by the Independent Expert appointed under UT5 (Report Date).

On 15 December 2022, the QCA rejected the FY2022 Revenue Adjustment Amount of \$44.6 million (net under-recovery) (\$33.0 million excluding GAPE) on the view that the Report Date was 14 March 2022 instead of 12 November 2021 used to calculate the FY2022 Revenue Adjustment Amount. The Company submitted an amended FY2022 Revenue Adjustment Amount of \$35.8 million (net under-recovery) (\$25.4 million excluding GAPE) on 20 January 2023 in compliance with the QCA's decision, so as to ensure the other aspects of the QCA's decision could operate without delays arising, and reserved its rights in relation to the proper interpretation of the Report Date. On the same day, the Company lodged an application with the Supreme Court of Queensland to appeal the QCA's decision, seeking a declaration from the court about the proper interpretation of the definition of Report Date. The Supreme Court hearing took place on 14 June 2023. On 28 July 2023, the Supreme Court dismissed the Company's application and decided that the Report Date is 14 March 2022.

The QCA's decision has no impact on FY2023 access revenue as the FY2022 Revenue Adjustment Amount will be reflected in reference tariffs for FY2024.

In FY2023 annual volumes were lower than the regulatory forecast resulting in Take-or-Pay of \$100.2 million (\$76.1 million excluding GAPE) being recognised. In addition, there was a net under-recovery amount of approximately \$31.5 million (\$27.2 million excluding GAPE) which represents the FY2023 Revenue Adjustment Amount that will be recovered in FY2025. The FY2023 Revenue Adjustment Amount is subject to approval by the QCA.

UT5 includes a defined process to reset the WACC at 1 July 2023 (Preliminary Reset Values) and 1 July 2024 (Final Reset Values). On 25 May 2023, the QCA approved Preliminary Reset Values, including a WACC of 8.18% (applying a risk-free rate of 3.47% and a debt risk premium of 2.60%), to be incorporated into reference tariffs for FY2024.

On 31 July 2023, the Company submitted to the QCA the Final Reset Values including a WACC of 8.51% (applying a risk-free rate of 3.87% and a debt risk premium of 2.48%). Following a QCA consultation and decision process on the Final Reset Values, the WACC will be incorporated into reference tariffs for FY2025. Any difference between the Preliminary and Final Reset allowable revenues for FY2024 will be reconciled through the FY2024 Revenue Adjustment Amount and reflected in reference tariffs for FY2026. On 19 October 2023, the QCA approved the Final Reset Values.

## Statement of Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation

	2023 \$000's	2022 \$000's
Access charges - coal	1,021,445	988,913
Access charges - other	10,866	11,923
Electric traction energy charges	151,889	49,171
Other	7,006	307
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,191,206</b>	1,050,314
Infrastructure maintenance	165,482	155,793
Derailment / collision / flood repairs	7,229	4,948
Network control services	29,832	29,691
Infrastructure management	8,981	8,604
Business management	18,396	22,406
Insurance	6,469	5,562
Traction electricity	215,276	108,332
Other expenses	12,286	8,079
Corporate overhead (note 4)	51,947	50,948
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>515,898</b>	394,363
<b>Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>675,308</b>	655,951

*The above Statement of Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared to meet the needs of the QCA and access seekers for access to rail infrastructure for the purpose of operating trains.

These financial statements constitute a special purpose financial report prepared in accordance with sub clause 3.8 of Aurizon Network's Access Undertaking and the Costing Manual as approved by the QCA on 28 May 2020. These financial statements are prepared from the audited consolidated general purpose financial statements for Aurizon Network Pty Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2023 and adjusted in accordance with the requirements of the Costing Manual. For a summary of the significant accounting policies, refer to the audited consolidated general purpose financial statements of Aurizon Network, available on the Aurizon Holdings' website, [aurizon.com.au](http://aurizon.com.au).

#### *Statement of Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation*

The sources of information for the Statement of Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation for the year ended 30 June 2023 are:

- (a) The accounting records of Aurizon Network for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023; and
- (b) The accounting records of Aurizon Group for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the purposes of determining the allocation of a portion of the corporate overhead from the Group.

The maintenance allowance included in the Maximum Allowable Revenue for each year includes a return on assets to Aurizon Network for non-RAB assets deployed in the provision of the operating and maintenance services, primarily mechanised plant. Depreciation on these assets attributed to maintenance activities has been included within Infrastructure Maintenance on the Statement of Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation.

### 2. Below rail services provided by Aurizon Network

Aurizon Network's Access Undertaking and Costing Manual require the Statement of Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation to identify Below Rail Services Provided by Aurizon Network.

Below Rail Services are activities associated with the provision and management of Rail Infrastructure, including the construction, maintenance and renewal of Rail Infrastructure assets, and the network management services required for the safe operation of Train Services on the Rail Infrastructure, including Network Control Services and the implementation of safeworking procedures.

Aurizon Network is the business established to manage the provision of Below Rail Services.

### 3. Internal charges

Internal charges for services provided by Aurizon Network to other Aurizon companies are treated as revenue. Internal charges treated as revenue are access charges, traction electricity charges and ancillary infrastructure charges. The total internal charges reported as below rail revenue for the year ended 30 June 2023 are \$405.5 million (2022: \$381.7 million).

Access charges for Aurizon train services are in accordance with Aurizon Network's access agreements and where applicable consistent with Reference Tariffs approved by the QCA. Other internal charges are either similar to charges levied on external customers or in accordance with internal service agreements.

#### 4. Corporate overhead

##### Allocation basis

Under the organisational model of the Aurizon Group, corporate services are not charged to Aurizon Network separately and are therefore included in corporate overhead. The methodology employed for allocating Aurizon Group's corporate costs to Below Rail Services in accordance with the Costing Manual is as follows:

- Obtain the operating expenses for each non-operational function of the Aurizon Group;
- Exclude cost centres for each of the functional areas, per the table below, that specifically relate to operating functions other than Below Rail Services; then
- Apply allocators calculated as at the end of financial year to all other cost centres in the Internal Costing Accounts as follows:

<b>Corporate Non-Operating Function</b>	<b>Allocation Basis</b>
<b>Board &amp; CEO</b>	Direct costs
<b>Finance (excluding Network Finance)</b>	
- Mergers & Acquisitions, Finance Partner Coal, Finance Partner Bulk, and Group Accounting, Planning & Reporting and Governance	Nil
- Accounts Receivable / Accounts Payable	Number of transactions
- All other sub-functions including– Treasury, Tax, Investor Relations, Insurance, Admin Resource Centre. Finance Partner TSP & Corporate.	Direct costs
<b>Real Estate</b>	Generally identifiable by occupancy, with FTEs used for unidentifiable costs
<b>Information Technology</b>	Technology labour costs: - 7.3% identifiable to Network; - 81.6% allocated using FTEs  Technology consumables costs: - 12.5% Identifiable to Network; - 60.2% allocated using FTEs
<b>Human Resources &amp; Safety, Health &amp; Environment</b>	
- HR centrally held costs	
- executive bonuses	9%
- leave discounting	10%
- Safety and HR partners – Corporate	FTEs
- Safety and HR partner – Network	100%
- Safety and HR partner – Coal and Bulk, Brand and Community Engagement	Nil
- Organisational Development & Capability, Remuneration, Payroll, Employee Relations, External Communications, External Relations, Safety Health & Environment	FTEs
<b>General Counsel &amp; Corporate Secretary</b>	Direct Costs
<b>Other Corporate Services</b>	
- Risk & Assurance, Procurement	Direct costs

#### 4. Corporate overhead (continued)

Where:

- FTEs % is the number of below rail network employees as a percentage of total Aurizon Group employees.
- Direct costs is the direct operational costs (excluding depreciation, access charges and traction costs) of the below rail network business as a percentage of the total direct operational costs (excluding depreciation, access charges and traction costs) of the Aurizon Group.

*Impact of varied allocators on the corporate cost allocation*

	2023		2022	
	Current Year	UT5 Notional	Current Year	UT5 Notional
	Allocation	Allocation	Allocation	Allocation
	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's
CEO & Board	1,275	1,471	2,084	2,202
Finance	1,987	2,262	3,655	3,706
Real Estate	16,655	16,023	13,432	12,751
Human Resources	5,694	4,891	3,462	2,543
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary	1,409	1,625	1,503	1,587
Information Technology	19,623	17,036	20,312	16,962
Safety, Health and Environment	2,854	2,156	3,186	2,243
Other Corporate Services	2,450	2,604	3,314	3,279
<b>Total Corporate Overhead</b>	<b>51,947</b>	<b>48,068</b>	<b>50,948</b>	<b>45,273</b>

Where:

- Current Year Allocation is the corporate overhead allocated using allocation percentages calculated using current parameters (e.g. FTE, direct costs) in the year of allocation applied to actual corporate overhead costs, as specified in the Costing Manual.
- UT5 Notional Allocation is the corporate overhead that would have been notionally allocated using the allocation percentages implicit in the approved UT5 allowances (i.e. same percentage each year) applied to actual corporate overhead costs.

## 5. Self-insurance

In its operating cost allowance, the Company receives an allowance for self-insurance for the purpose of allowing the Company to manage specific risks which are unable to be insured through an insurance policy. The self-insurance premiums include all claims that may be made against the Company or its relevant Access Holders for which the Company self-insures.

Self-insurance coverage for the year is as follows:

Uninsured property risks:	Claims > \$0 and less than the pass-through thresholds:
- Weather-related	- \$1,000,000 for weather related events
- Dewirement	- \$1,000,000 for catastrophic damage to the network from perils such as earthquake and other natural disasters
- Derailment	
- Earthquake	
- Fire	
- Accidental and malicious damage	
Public liability	

As required by the Access Undertaking, set out below are the value of claims on the self-insurance funding during the year. A claim refers to an event in one of the property risk categories outlined in the tables below. The value of claims below is the amount expensed during the year, which includes claimed raised (both resolved and unresolved) during the year and amounts expensed during the current year for claims raised in a prior year. Any amounts recovered through tariff adjustments are excluded from the values below.

	2023 \$000's	2022 \$000's
Weather	-	-
Derailments	6,489	3,747
Dewirements	210	480
Public Liability	532	721
<b>Total self insurance expense</b>	<b>7,231</b>	<b>4,948</b>

The derailment claims include \$5.937 million in relation to the derailment that occurred at Marmor, south of Rockhampton on 29 January 2023. Several wagons from a freight train derailed significantly damaging points, crossings, level crossing equipment and overhead wiring stanchions. This claim is unresolved at 30 June 2023.

## 6. Coal Systems

The Central Queensland Coal Region incorporates the following Coal Systems:

- (a) The **Newlands System** – the Rail Infrastructure comprising the rail corridor from the port of Abbot Point to Newlands mine, and all branch lines directly connecting coal mine loading facilities to that corridor, with the exception of the corridor between the Newlands mine and the North Goonyella mine (and beyond).
- (b) The **Goonyella System** – the Rail Infrastructure comprising the rail corridor from the ports at Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay to Hail Creek mine, Blair Athol mine, North Goonyella mine and the junction with the Gregory mine branch line and all branch lines directly connecting coal mine loading facilities to those corridors, with the exception of: (a) the branch line to Gregory mine; and (b) the corridor beyond North Goonyella mine to Newlands mine (and beyond).
- (c) The **Blackwater System** – the Rail Infrastructure comprising the rail corridor from the port of Gladstone (including domestic coal terminals in the vicinity of Gladstone) to Gregory, Minerva and Rolleston mines, and all branch lines directly connecting coal mine loading facilities to those corridors with the exception of the corridor to Oaky Creek (and beyond) and the corridor to Moura mine (and beyond).
- (d) The **Moura System** - The Rail Infrastructure comprising the rail corridor from the port of Gladstone (including domestic coal terminals in the vicinity of Gladstone) to Moura mine and the loading facility for Baralaba mine in the vicinity of Moura mine, and all branch lines directly connecting coal mine loading facilities to that corridor but excluding the corridor to Blackwater (and beyond).
- (e) The **Goonyella to Abbot Point (GAPE) System** – the Rail Infrastructure comprising: (a) the Goonyella Newlands Connection; and (b) that part of any other Coal System which is used by a Train Service that also uses or connects to any part of the Goonyella Newlands Connection, except where that Train Service originates or terminates south of Gregory.

## Certificate of Aurizon Network Pty Ltd

I certify that the foregoing financial statements and notes to and forming part thereof for the year ended 30 June 2023 have been prepared pursuant to sub clause 3.8 of *Aurizon Network 2017 Access Undertaking (UT5) – Rebate Mechanism DAAU and QCA Levy Endorsed Variation* approved by the Queensland Competition Authority on 24 August 2023 and the provisions of the *Costing Manual* approved by the QCA on 28 May 2020.



Pam Bains

*Group Executive Network*  
Aurizon Network Pty Ltd

13 December 2023



**Building a better  
working world**

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## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Aurizon Network Pty Ltd**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the Financial Statements for the Below Rail Services, as set out on pages 5 to 11, being a special purpose financial report, of Aurizon Network Pty Ltd (the Company), which comprises the statement of earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization for the year ended 30 June 2023, notes to the financial report including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Costing Manual (as approved on 28 May 2020).

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Company to meet the requirements of Aurizon Network's Access Undertaking and the Costing Manual as approved by the Queensland Competition Authority on 28 May 2020. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our auditor's report is intended solely for the information and use of the Company and the Queensland Competition Authority (collectively the Recipients) and should not be used by parties other than the Recipients. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Other Matter**

The Company's SAP, APS and Visirail IT systems (IT Systems) are used for data collection and reporting as part of the preparation of the financial report. As detailed in our Audit Plan for the year ended 30 June 2023, approved by the Company and the Queensland Competition Authority, our procedures did not include identifying and testing of IT General Controls of the Company's IT Systems. Our opinion is not modified in respect of the matter.

## Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Costing Manual (as revised as approved on 28 May 2020) and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ▶ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ▶ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- ▶ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.



Ernst & Young  
Brisbane  
13 December 2023

## Glossary

**Access** means the non-exclusive utilisation of a specified section of Rail Infrastructure for the purposes of operating Train Services.

**Access Charge** means the price paid to Aurizon Network for Access under an Access Agreement.

**Access Agreement** means an agreement between Aurizon Network and an Access Holder for the provision of Access.

**Access Holder** means a person that has been granted an entitlement to Access in accordance with a specified Train Service Entitlement to operate Train Services on all or part of the Rail Infrastructure.

**Access Undertaking** refers to *Aurizon Network 2017 Access Undertaking (UT5) – Rebate Mechanism DAAU and QCA Levy Endorsed Variation* approved by the Queensland Competition Authority on 24 August 2023, in accordance with the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 (Qld)*.

**Act** means the *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 (Qld)*.

**Aurizon Group** means the group of companies for which Aurizon Holdings Limited (ACN 146 335 622) is the listed parent holding company. Aurizon Holdings Limited wholly owns Aurizon Operations Limited (ABN 47 564 947 264) and Aurizon Network Pty Ltd (ABN 78 132 181 116).

**Aurizon Network** means Aurizon Network Pty Ltd (ABN 78 132 181 116), a wholly owned subsidiary of Aurizon Holdings incorporated on 11 July 2008.

**Below Rail Services** means the activities associated with the provision and management of Rail Infrastructure, as outlined in Note 2 of these statements.

**Central Queensland Coal Region** means the coal systems defined in Note 6 of these statements.

**Costing Manual** means a manual either prepared by Aurizon Network and approved by the QCA; or prepared by the QCA under section 159(1) of the Act, as revised by the QCA from time to time under sections 159(2) and (3) of the Act.

**Financial Statements** means the Statement of Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation and associated notes to the financial statements, which separately identify Aurizon Network's business in respect of the declared services contemplated by section 250(1)(a) of the Act from other business conducted by Aurizon Network, and which are required in accordance with the Access Undertaking.

**QCA** means the Queensland Competition Authority as established by the Act.

**Rail Infrastructure** means rail transport infrastructure (as defined under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 (Qld)*) for which Aurizon Network is the owner or lessee, the use of which is taken to be a service declared for the purposes of Part 5 of the Act pursuant to section 250(1)(a) of the Act.

**Reference Tariff** is an Access Charge applicable for a specified Reference Train Service, set out in Schedule F of Aurizon Network's Access Undertaking, or established by Aurizon Network and authorised by the QCA.

**Reference Train Service** means a notional Train Service identified in respect to a Reference Tariff and conforming to certain criteria, including carrying a specified commodity type, operating between specified geographical areas and conforming to specified technical characteristics, operational characteristics and contract terms and conditions.

## **Glossary (continued)**

**Rollingstock** means locomotives, carriages, wagons, rail cars, rail motors, light rail vehicles, light inspection vehicles, rail/road vehicles, trolleys and any other vehicle that operates on or uses the track.

**Train Service** means any configuration of Rollingstock operating as a unit on the Rail Infrastructure from a specified origin to a specified destination.