

Wednesday, 2 November 2016

Matthew Schroder
General Manager
Infrastructure and Transport – Access and Pricing Branch
ACCC
GPO Box 520
Melbourne
Victoria 3001

By email: transport@acc.gov.au

Dear Mr Schroder

Pacific National Response to the ARTC Proposed Extension and Variation to the 2011 HVAU

Pacific National welcomes the opportunity to provide comment to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on the Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) application to extend and vary the 2011 Hunter Valley Access Undertaking (HVAU).

The ARTC application seeks to extend the term of the 2011 HVAU to 30 June 2017 and amend various sections of the current 2011 HVAU relating to pricing, compliance and transitional arrangements which are affected by the proposed extension.

Pacific National supports the extension of the 2011 HVAU Access Undertaking to 30 June 2017 as this extension ensures the ongoing certainty of regulated rail access on the Hunter Valley coal network, although Pacific National seeks that all parties use their best endeavours to approve and implement the new HVAU prior to this date.

On a separate matter Pacific National is seeking that the ACCC be aware that future submissions relating to the HVAU regulatory process will now be made by Pacific National rather than Asciano. This change follows the sale of Asciano in August 2016 which has resulted in Pacific National becoming a stand-alone company with new owners. Submissions made before this ownership change should be treated as being joint submissions from Pacific National and Asciano.

Pacific National (as Asciano) has made numerous submissions to current HVAU regulatory consultation processes. Pacific National seeks that these previous submissions be taken into account by the ACCC when considering its decision on the HVAU.

If you wish to discuss this letter further please contact me on 02 8484 8056.

Yours faithfully,



Stuart Ronan
Manager Access and Regulation

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