



Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
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Parramatta NSW 2124

29 October 2025

### **Aurizon submission: Support for the extension of Wilpinjong Mine Operations**

To whom it may concern

Aurizon (ASX: AZJ) appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission in support of Peabody's application to extend Wilpinjong Mine (**Wilpinjong**) coal operations through to late 2033 and associated rehabilitation until mid-2034.

As outlined in our submission below, Aurizon endorses Peabody's application based on the substantial and enduring benefits the Wilpinjong coal operation extension will bring to the wider Mid-Western Region economy. This mining operation directly supports a workforce of +600 people, providing around \$100 million in wages and directly contributing \$569 million to the New South Wales (NSW) economy. Aurizon is proud to serve as Wilpinjong's rail haulage partner to support local economic development.

#### **Aurizon's operations**

Aurizon is Australia's largest rail-based transport business committed to growing regional communities by enabling producers to deliver bulk commodities to end customers. Each year, we transport more than 250 million tonnes of Australian products connecting miners, primary producers, and industry with international and domestic markets.

We provide customers an integrated freight and logistics solutions across our national footprint, with operations in all mainland Australian states and the Northern Territory. Aurizon initiated heavy haul rail operations in the Hunter Valley and Ulan Corridor (servicing the Mid-West Region) in 2005 and have continued to transport more than 50 million tonnes of coal annually throughout New South Wales.

Aurizon has over 500 employees living and working in regional NSW communities including Illawarra, Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and Gunnedah. These employees are an integral part of our total workforce of approximately 6,000 people.

#### **Safety**

Our safety objective is to ensure the wellbeing of our employees, each other, and the communities we serve. Aurizon and Peabody are united by a shared safety value, both committed to conducting operations in a manner that upholds safe and healthy workplaces for all employees, contractors, visitors, and the broader community.

Both companies aim for zero workplace injuries by making safety a core value. Prioritising safety leads to efficient operations in mining and throughout the land transport supply chain.

As part of our safety commitment, Aurizon actively participates in industry-wide efforts to help reduce rail safety incidents. At the forefront is our national level crossing safety campaign – [\*Respect the Sign, Lives are on the Line\*](#). We launched a new phase of our level crossing safety campaign in August, releasing a series of videos titled [\*1.2.3.Brace\*](#) featuring Aurizon drivers sharing their personal experiences. These powerful messages urge the community to take greater care around level crossings. We continue to advocate for collective action and investment across industry, government and communities to improve safety outcomes at level crossings nationwide

### **Sustainability including decarbonisation**

As Australia's largest rail freight company, we prioritise transparency in Environmental, Social, and Governance aspects of our business. Aurizon is committed to continuous improvement for sustainable value across stakeholders, including employees, customers, communities and investors. Our goal is a responsible supply chain operation with reduced environmental impact.

We have a range of short, medium, and long-term decarbonisation initiatives underway, with the target of achieving net-zero operational emissions by 2050. Our \$50 million Future Fleet Fund continues to progress work on the Battery Electric Locomotive and Battery Electric Tender projects, which aims to use renewable energy sources to deliver low or zero-carbon freight transport solutions for customers. We regularly engage with government and regulators regarding policy and advocacy for fair and equitable treatment of rail as low carbon form of land-based freight transportation and to stimulate the domestic biodiesel production industry.

### **Regional communities**

Aurizon prioritises strengthening its positive impact on the regional communities where its staff live and work, and where its trains and supply chains operate.

85% per cent of Aurizon's employees are based in regional locations. In NSW, the majority of our operational and maintenance employees are based in regional cities and communities, including Wollongong, Newcastle and also communities in the Hunter Valley and Gunnedah regions. Aurizon understands that mining accounts for ~20% of the employment workforce in the Mid-West Region, with Wilpinjong supporting 605 of the ~14,059 total workforce.

Peabody and Aurizon's long-term partnership is underpinned by our commitment to support regional communities in which we operate through initiatives including:

- Peabody provides community grants impacting over 160 community organisations including, for example, Peabody's Wilpinjong team funding increased General Practitioner presence in the Gulgong community.
- Aurizon's Community Giving Fund supporting over 650 local charitable and not for profit organisations in our communities since 2011. These include projects to provide education, community safety, environmental improvement and health and well-being services and support.

Peabody source a large proportion of Wilpinjong's business inputs from local suppliers in the Mid-West Region, spending \$400m with 1260+ local suppliers. Similarly, Aurizon's national footprint facilitates approximately \$1 billion spent with suppliers across Australia, including regional NSW.

## Diversity and inclusion

Aurizon is committed to building greater diversity and inclusion in our workforce, with a focus on increasing representation of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders across the company.

Aurizon appreciates that an inclusive workplace, which supports gender balance and equality, drives better performance and outcomes for our customers, shareholders and their communities. The representation of women in our workforce is currently 23% per cent, up from 12 per cent from 2012. This increased representation of women includes providing more opportunities to pursue skilled pathways through apprenticeships and training programs within the company.

Providing effective employment, training and development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as part of a broader commitment to achieving greater understanding and contributing to reconciliation, is a key focus for Aurizon.

We have made significant progress, with the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees in our workforce increasing from approximately 2.5 per cent of all employees in 2012, to approximately 7 per cent of total employees today. Our aim is to make further progress by providing opportunities for Indigenous Australians as set out in Aurizon's latest [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

## Long term benefits

Historically Peabody's Wilpinjong Mine has paid \$90m per annum in royalties to the government. The extension of Wilpinjong's Pit 8 operations until late 2033 offers other significant economic benefits to NSW through the employment of a ~600-strong local workforce, ~100 contractors and \$400m spend with local suppliers.

Wilpinjong is obviously a key contributor to the community evident through Peabody's commitment to developing skilled regional workforce with 30 apprentices and trainees onsite last year.

The extension would result in skilled Aurizon employees continuing to be employed in the local region to undertake the rail freight and logistics operations that are involved in our partnership with Peabody.

Aurizon is proud to support this submission based on the benefits outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



**Ed McKeiver**

Group Executive Coal

Aurizon