

Our reference: 20/167-1

Contact Jessica Robinson

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Mr Joost De Kock
Deputy Secretary, Customer Strategy and Technology

via email

Dear Mr De Kock

Request for extension to IPART's review of the Rail Access Undertaking

On 23 August 2021, the Minister for Customer Service provided IPART with a terms of reference to review the NSW Rail Access Undertaking. We released an Issues Paper in November 2021 and received submissions from stakeholders.

The terms of reference directed IPART to provide a final report within 12 months of receiving the terms of reference. However, the current timeframe is at risk of not being met due to the team being affected by COVID-19 impacts and a higher than usual workload. The higher workload has resulted from the increased complexity of the annual compliance processes associated with the transfer of the infrastructure ownership from Railcorp to the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE).

To address this risk, we are requesting an extension to the review of around three months to 30 November 2022. A longer timeframe would also allow us to have a better understanding of the ACCC's positions on their review of the Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) interstate rail network before we make our recommendations. A key theme from stakeholder submissions to date is for greater consistency of rail access regimes between networks and jurisdictions.

IPART's contact officer for this review is Jessica Robinson, Director, contactable on 02 9290 8405.

Yours sincerely

14/02/2022



Liz Livingstone

CEO

Signed by: Liz Livingstone