

# Aurizon's integrated supply chain logistics for BHP's copper operations in South Australia



Aurizon, Australia's largest rail freight business, has been selected by BHP to provide the total logistics solution for BHP's Copper South Australia operations.

These long-term contracts cover both exports of copper, as well as inputs for the mines and processing facilities, and are scheduled to commence in October 2025.

Copper is a key commodity for global decarbonisation with demand expected to increase rapidly in coming decades as the energy transition accelerates.

BHP's copper province in South Australia is one of the world's largest copper mining and processing operations, comprising the Olympic Dam, Prominent Hill and Carrapateena underground mines. These mines provide volumes of copper concentrate to a centralised smelter and refinery complex at Olympic Dam that produces copper concentrate and refined copper cathode.

Based on BHP's current Copper South Australia production (FY2024: 322,000 tonnes<sup>1</sup>), Aurizon's integrated logistics solution is scalable and positions the company to capture additional volumes should BHP's Copper SA asset grow further in the years to come.

<sup>1</sup> [www.bhp.com/-/media/documents/media/reports-and-presentations/2024/240717\\_bhpoperationalreviewfortheyearended30june2024.pdf](http://www.bhp.com/-/media/documents/media/reports-and-presentations/2024/240717_bhpoperationalreviewfortheyearended30june2024.pdf)

## The transport task

Aurizon is responsible for the total transport supply chain including rail haulage, road transport, terminal management, port management and stevedoring with road transport sub-contracted by Aurizon to Symons Clark Logistics (SCL), already a valued provider of select BHP transport services.

Aurizon's aggregate logistics task is around 1.3 million tonnes per annum, servicing the mining and refinery/smelter operations at Olympic Dam, Prominent Hill and Carrapateena mines.

- Mine inputs, with the majority of volumes consolidated at Aurizon's Berth 29 at the Port of Adelaide, then railed north 500 kilometres to Aurizon's new intermodal terminal at Pimba. From there mine inputs will be distributed by road to the three mining complexes.
- Mine outputs (copper concentrate and cathode) will be transported to Pimba by road then railed south 500 kilometres to Adelaide Port for export.

Figure 1 Integrated supply chain logistics



Figure 2 Aurizon | BHP branded loco

## Copper a future-facing commodity in demand

- Copper is a future-facing commodity used in electric vehicles and renewable energy, and critical to global decarbonisation.
- Global copper demand is forecast to increase by around 70% by 2050.<sup>2</sup>
- BHP's copper province in South Australia will be the world's third largest copper mining and processing operation.

<sup>2</sup> [www.bhp.com/news/bhp-insights/2024/09/how-copper-will-shape-our-future](https://www.bhp.com/news/bhp-insights/2024/09/how-copper-will-shape-our-future)

## Delivering environmental benefits



**13 million less truck  
kilometres per annum**

- Aurizon's extensive assets and infrastructure in South Australia, along with the new multimodal terminal at Pimba, will enable the conversion of most BHP volumes from road to rail.
- Aurizon's hub and spoke model, featuring SCL's efficient road fleet for 'first mile' and 'last mile' deliveries to central hubs (Port Adelaide and Pimba terminal), and modern freight trains for long hauls, represents best practice in bulk freight land transport.
- Once Pimba is fully operational, Aurizon will replace an estimated 13 million kilometres of truck movements annually<sup>3</sup> on South Australian roads.

<sup>3</sup> All calculations assume the consumption of mineral diesel for both the existing road and proposed intermodal solution.



**Figure 3** SCL fleet truck(image courtesy of SCL)

### About Aurizon

Aurizon is Australia's largest rail freight company with operations in all mainland states and the Northern Territory. We move ~ 250 million tonnes of freight annually, and operate and manage more than 5,000 kilometres of rail track infrastructure in Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

In 2022, Aurizon acquired One Rail Australia which included the 2,100-kilometre Tarcoola to Darwin railway line, and key rail assets in South Australia and the Northern Territory. In 2024, Aurizon acquired Flinders Logistics including terminal and stevedoring facilities at the Port of Adelaide (Berth 29). Aurizon has also invested significantly in upgrading the Gillman container terminal at the Port.

### Contact us

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