

Blackwater coal rail corridor



The Blackwater Coal Rail System is one of four systems in Aurizon's Central Queensland Coal Network (CQCN). It has the largest route length of the four coal systems.

The Blackwater system links Central Queensland mines from the Bowen Basin to two export terminals at the Port of Gladstone – RG Tanna Coal Terminal and the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal (WICET). This is in addition to local domestic unload locations in Gladstone.

In late 2015 Aurizon completed the Wiggins Island Rail Project (WIRP), which involved the staged development of new rail lines and upgrading of existing lines to WICET.

WIRP created a vital link between the coal terminal and mines in the Southern Bowen, with the potential for future service linkage into the Surat Basin. The rail expansion comprised interdependent infrastructure projects across the Blackwater Rail System, the Moura Rail System and the North Coast Line.

System facts

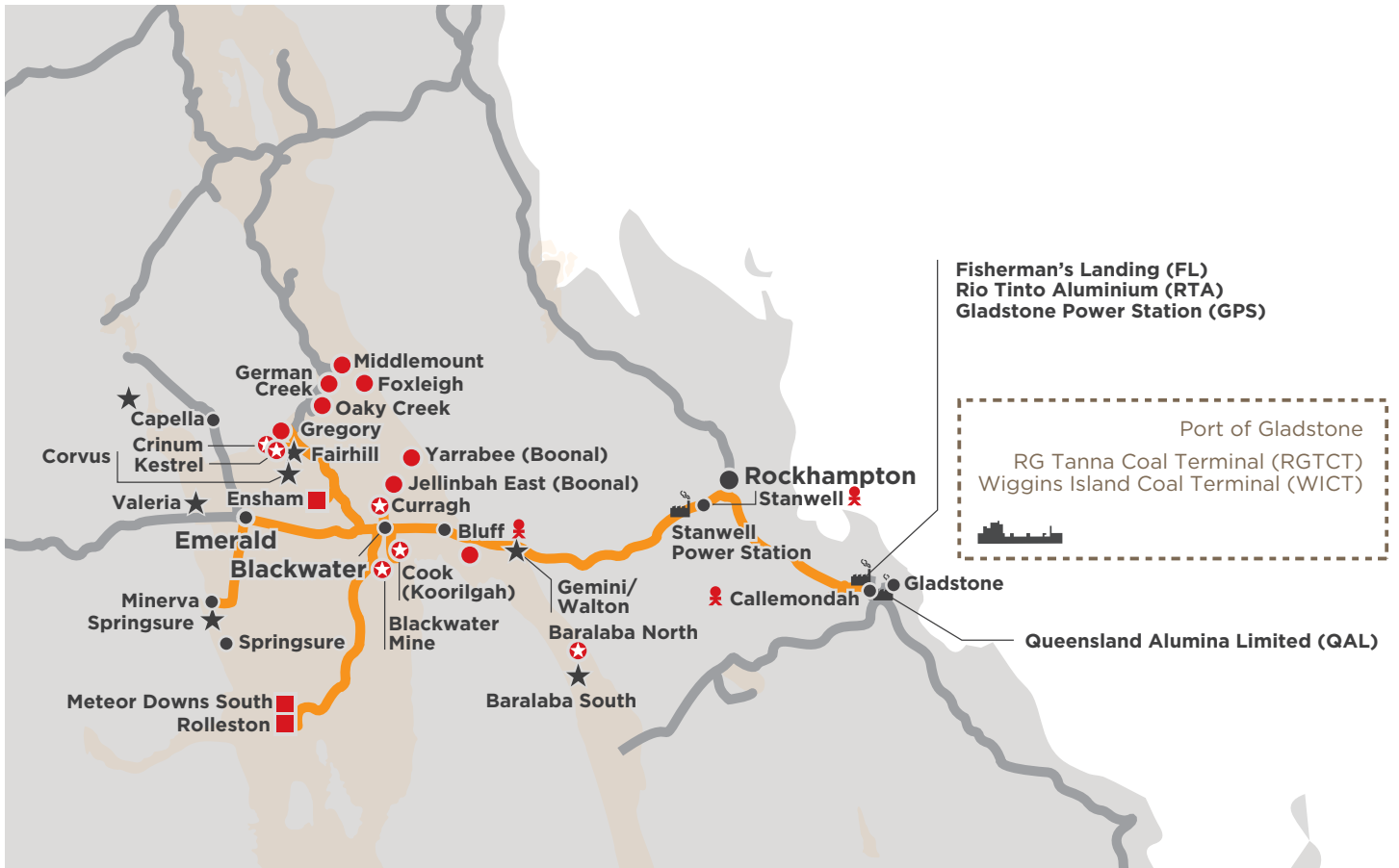
Track manager	Aurizon
Track axle load	26.5 tonnes
Track gauge	Narrow (1067 mm)
Track configuration	Combination of single and duplicated tracks
Export terminals	2

On the long-haul Blackwater system, Aurizon meets customers' needs through a heavy haul fleet of locomotives and multiple crewing points. Depots at Callemondah, Stanwell and Bluff are key locations that provide operational and maintenance support to train services.

Aurizon utilises a blended diesel and electric fleet on the electrified network and in 2023 activated its TrainGuard European Train Control System (ETCS) for full use within the corridor.

Major Aurizon customers in the Blackwater system include Whitehaven, Glencore, Jellinbah Resources, Coronda, Yancoal and Thungela Resources.

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Legend

-  Rolling stock depot
-  Train crew depot
-  Thermal (steaming) mine
-  Metallurgical (coking) coal
-  Mixed coal product
-  Proposed mines
-  Domestic terminal
-  Operating export terminal
-  Blackwater coal rail system
-  Existing rail
-  Coal basin



Contact us:

aurizon.com.au

13 23 32

info@aurizon.com.au