

I'll preface these remarks with three observations:-

1. that earlier this year the NSW Minister for Energy and the Environment, the Hon. Matt Kean suggested that the Illawarra region, and in particular an area within Port Kembla, "is one of two key regions in the state that can benefit from becoming a green hydrogen hub". This was widely reported in the press: for a full account see:

<https://research.csiro.au/hyresource/port-kembla-hydrogen-hub>

2. that according to the *Financial Review* (Jan. 3rd. 2022) the price of iron ore topped \$US200 a tonne in 2021, a 'record breaking year'. This, Australia's most valuable export, has continued at and above this price since, and with the cost of timber going higher because of international sanctions against Russia, new iron-ore records are likely to be set in this bull-run.

3. that on Feb. 21st this year BlueScope announced a record after tax net profit of \$1.64 billion:

"BlueScope today reported 1H FY2022 net profit after tax (NPAT) of \$1.64 billion, a \$1.31 billion increase over 1H FY2021. Confirming the record financial result, Managing Director and CEO, Mark Vassella said, 'Underlying EBIT for the half year was \$2.20 billion, clearly the best half-year performance BlueScope has produced in its 20-year history as a listed company.'"

For more complete coverage:

<https://www.bluescope.com/bluescope-news/2022/02/bluescope-1h-fy2022-financial-results>

So we have

1. Port Kembla suggested at a NSW Gov. ministerial level as a potential future green hydrogen hub, and
2. one of our country's richest companies not just making record profits but likely to continue to do so into the foreseeable future.

I come now to the proposed relining of the blast furnace: project SSI-22545215.

If this is to go ahead it must be done to newest standards: those that will allow the furnace to be fuelled by green hydrogen. That is unequivocally environmentally sensible, scientific, safe and (obviously) affordable. It may also well have the backing of the NSW Government.

I understand that this technology is already in operation in Europe. If Australia's pathway, following world best-practice, is to produce zero-emissions steel, this technology is the way to go. If BlueScope has a future in Wollongong then upgrading to this technological seems palpably obvious.