

Director, Industry Assessments
NSW Planning, Department of Planning and Environment

RE: Application No SSI-22545215, BlueScope Blast Furnace 6 Reline Project

I am writing on behalf of the Community Industry Group (CI Group) to express support for the Reline of No.6 Blast Furnace at the Port Kembla Steelworks.

Community Industry Group is the peak body for community services and human services in Southern NSW. For almost thirty years, CI Group has taken a leadership role in the local community services sector. We support community organisations, promote expertise and innovation, foster industry development and advocate for social justice. CI Group has participated in consultations for this project and is a member of the BlueScope Community Consultative Committee.

The proposed project is an investment in the local economy in an area that has higher unemployment rates than the state and regional NSW average¹.

The Port Kembla Steelworks has provided employment for generations of local people and makes a significant economic contribution to the Illawarra region.

The reline of No.6 Blast Furnace will provide thousands of employment opportunities, both direct and indirect jobs, as well as economic benefits for businesses in the region. It will also attract other job seekers to the area which may help fill the significant employee shortfall for many industries including aged care, disability services and home care.

In addition to assuring the short to medium term future of steelmaking at Port Kembla, we note that the Reline of the Blast Furnace will ultimately assist in the transition to lower emissions steelmaking technologies. Importantly, the project includes environmental improvements and technology upgrades.

BlueScope is a very active corporate citizen in the Illawarra region. It has provided financial and in-kind support for many local community groups and organisations and sponsors community and sporting events. Approval of this project will ensure that this support is able to continue.

Thank you for considering this submission. Should you require any further information I can be contacted at ceo@cigroup.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Anna Bacik
CEO

14 April 2022

1: Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour force survey catalogue number 6202.0, and Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).