

**RE: BLAST FURNACE No 6 RELINE PROJECT**

I object to the current proposal for the No 6 Blast Furnace Reline on the grounds that the Environmental Impact Statement and Hazard and Risk Report do not adequately cover established risks and hazards relating to the Exposure of Highly Toxic and Carcinogenic Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF to residents in areas within a 10km radius of the proposed Blast Furnace and ancillary steel making plant.

Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF are Bioaccumulative in nature and have been linked to the causes of Cancer. The Illawarra region has long history of noted cancer clusters – especially amongst the migrant workers and disadvantaged residents living ‘in the shadow’ of the Steelworks precinct.

In recent times the release of these highly toxic gases have repeatedly exceeded the EPA licence limits of Bluescope Steel. Lic No: 6902. Bluescope Steel has been fined by the EPA for these breaches. On October 14 2014 a fire in the Waste Gas Cleaning Plant caused an unknown quantity of toxic Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furnans PCCDF to be released in surrounding residential areas

There is no statement or detail in the proposed Reline of Blast Furnace 6 Environmental Impact Statement or Hazard and Risk Report relating to the possible excessive release of highly toxic Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF in surrounding residential areas due to possible future EPA Licence breaches or Industrial Accidents that have occurred in the past.

There is also no detail in the Reline of Blast Furnace 6 Environmental Impact Statement or Hazard and Risk Report relating to the BIOACCUMULATIVE EFFECTS of highly toxic Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furnans PCCDF in surrounding residential areas.

No provisions have been made in the current proposal for the No 6 Blast Furnace Environmental Impact Statement and Hazard and Risk Report for the FUTURE REMEDIATION of Residential areas within the vicinity of the Bluescope Steel Plant if they have been exposed to BIOACCUMULATIVE Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furnans PCCDF.

There is great concern amongst residents that the Proposed Blast Furnace No 6 Reline will result in continued Bioaccumulation of Dioxins and Furans. The issue of exposure and Bioaccumulation of Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF in surrounding residential areas has been raised many times with Councillors and the Lord Mayor Bradbery at the Wollongong Council Community NF7 meetings during 2020 and 2021 and also with the EPA, Bluescope Community Consultative Committee and the Minister for the Environment, Matt Keane. These documents and communications are all ON THE RECORD.

Given the total lack of detail in the Blast Furnace No 6 Reline Environmental Impact Statement and Hazard and Risk Report regarding the EXPOSURE and CONTINUED BIOACCUMULATION of Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF in surrounding residential areas I ask that;

1. The proposed Reline does not proceed until a COMPREHENSIVE and FULLY INDEPENDENT report by a Dioxin Furan SPECIALIST be submitted to verify the safety of exposure to Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF to residents within a 10km radius of proposed Blast Furnace 6 and the Bluescope Plant.
2. That a FULLY INDEPENDENT Health & Safety MEDICAL REPORT be provided that verifies there is NO CURRENT or LONG TERM health effects from long term exposure to Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF to Residents within a 10 km radius of the proposed Blast Furnace and Bluescope Plant.
3. That STATE-OF-THE-ART INDEPENDENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING be implemented within a 3 km radius (not currently available ) of the proposed blast furnace 6 and Bluescope Plant to verify Data relating to emissions of Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF Dioxin at all times.
4. That an INDEPENDENT REPORT by a noted Dioxin / Furan emissions specialist be provided that verify that there is NO LONG-TERM Bioaccumulative danger to Residents within a 10 km radius from Dioxin of Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF emissions.

Given the LONG TERM CONCERNS of residents of exposure to Tetra-chloro-dibenzo-P-dioxin 2,3,7,8 and Dibenzo Furans PCCDF from the Bluescope Steel Plant it is surprising that there is very little detail in regards this issue in both the Environmental Impact Statement and the Hazard and Risk Report. The continued release of dangerous Dioxins and Furans from the proposed No 6 Blast Furnace reline also contradicts the aims of the Federal Government National Dioxin Plan.

A 'fast track' approval of the Blast Furnace 6 Reline proposal without a COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT and INDEPENDENT MONITORING of these highly Toxic Dioxin and Furan emissions will perpetuate the current belief that these dangerous emissions are being ignored not for critical infrastructure requirements but simply for COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE.

Lake Heights Resident.