

**Blast Furnace No. 6 Reline Project Submission (SSI-22545215)**

**Name** Rob Newman [rnewman@sce-aust.com]

**Position** Major Shareholder

**Company** SCE Group Pty Ltd

**Contact** [rnewman@sce-aust.com](mailto:rnewman@sce-aust.com) | 4276 5888

SCE Group (SCE) provides its support for the Blast Furnace No.6 Reline at the Port Kembla Steelworks, located at Five Islands Road, Port Kembla.

The Illawarra steel industry is a critical sector and cornerstone of our economy. SCE cannot overstate the importance of the Blast Furnace No.6 Reline project for regional employment, the local economy, and firms such as SCE.

The impact of BlueScope's Illawarra operations underpins many third-party suppliers in the Illawarra like SCE and the vital employment and economic benefits provided by those suppliers to the Illawarra community.

Not only would the approval of the Reline project provide assurance for our more than 200 employees and their families, but also over 150 sub-contractors and our many third-party service providers.

The opportunity cost of this project, should the project not be approved, would be detrimental to the Illawarra region and NSW, in terms of economic consequences.

It is understood the project will provide the following benefits:

- **\$1 Billion investment** by BlueScope in the Illawarra region and state
- Ongoing support of **10,000 direct and indirect jobs** during operation, plus an additional 250 jobs during the project's development and construction phases
- Significant economic contribution to the Illawarra region of **\$1.6 billion in Gross Regional Product** (11%) and **\$6.5 billion of the regions total Output** (Value Added)
- A commitment to ensuring environmentally sustainable steelmaking with over **\$100 million to be spent on environmental improvement upgrades**
- Securing the short-medium term future of steelmaking at Port Kembla while providing a bridge to the longer-term transition to **lower emissions steelmaking** technologies when it is technically and commercially viable
- **Maximum local participation** throughout the development and construction phases, outsourcing contractors, and suppliers from the Illawarra region

## **Direct economic and social impact on SCE**

In our region, the operations of coal mines and iron and steel furnaces have very strong interdependencies. This steel and mining component of our total workload at SCE comprises most services we as a group of companies provide.

SCE has worked with BlueScope and their predecessor companies since 1961 and enjoys excellent relationships. The services currently provided to BlueScope include:

1. Load and haul of materials throughout the site
2. Load and haul of materials to and from the site
3. Crushing and screening of materials
4. Scrap handling services
5. Scrap cutting
6. Maintenance and re-fuelling services
7. Innovative service supply solutions

SCE uses over 100 significant plant and equipment items to carry out these functions. Around 120 employees are currently working at the Port Kembla steelworks.

SCE fears there would be a significant negative economic domino effect within the community if the Reline of Blast Furnace No. 6 does not proceed.

From an SCE perspective, not only would 120 direct employees who work with BlueScope be affected, but most likely, another 150 ancillary people would also be affected. It would also significantly impact our many suppliers and damaging to many families.

## **About SCE**

SCE is a family-owned and operated company established and based in Port Kembla. Specialising in bulk material handling and processing, SCE has been supplying Onsite Material Handling and Transport Services to steel and mining sectors in Illawarra for over 60 years.

SCE directly employs more than 200 people in the Illawarra. It runs operations in Sydney, Newcastle, and the Hunter Valley, including quarries and recycling centres. Our operations also support more than 150 subcontractors, most of whom provide transport services.

In addition, SCE relies on many third-party service providers to carry out our work safely and efficiently.

## **Recommendation**

SCE supports the **Blast Furnace No. 6 Reline Project** and recommends approval of BlueScope Steel's Critical State Significant Infrastructure application.