

**NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH**

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Tony Callinan NSW Branch Secretary

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TOGETHER**

ABN 92 860 257 789

Major Projects  
NSW Department for Planning and Environment  
4 Parramatta Square  
12 Darcy Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

*Via electronic submission*

To whom it may concern,

**Re: SSI-22545215 BLAST FURNACE 6 RELINE**

The Australian Workers' Union (AWU) NSW Branch would like to express their strong support for BlueScope's proposed project to reline Blast Furnace 6 at the Port Kembla Steelworks.

The AWU represents hundreds of workers at the Port Kembla Steelworks. The AWU, and its predecessors, have been the main union for steelworkers throughout the industry's history in Australia. The Port Kembla Steelworks is not just one of Australia's most important industrial facilities - it is a part of our country's history.

As stated in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the proposed reline project supports thousands of direct and indirect jobs for BlueScope employees as well as local contractors and suppliers. There will be upwards of 250 new jobs created during construction and the project is a \$1 billion total project investment for BlueScope. The Port Kembla Steelworks plays a particularly critical role in the economy of the Illawarra

Australia's sovereign capability is currently under critical risk. Australia continues to fall in the rankings of our ability to develop and sell new products, based on a lack of local economic complexity. The AWU, for this reason, has fought hard over decades to protect a bright future for the Port Kembla Steelworks, by ensuring governments and industry support Australian steel. The proposed work on Blast Furnace 6 is necessary to continue this production and maintain BlueScope's domestic steel supply for infrastructure, defence and renewables projects going forward.

The proposed project is no small undertaking, requiring the complete removal and replacement of large parts of plant in the blast furnace. Such a project comes with significant capital costs that demonstrate BlueScope's commitment to the Illawarra and to making steel in Australia. This is an investment that must consider not just the immediate term, but the longer-term position of BlueScope's blast furnace product in the Australian market.

As the EIS highlights, BlueScope has determined that the quickest and most commercially viable path to making a significant reduction to its emissions is to undertake the Blast Furnace 6 reline. BlueScope has committed to reducing the emissions intensity of its steelmaking process by 2030 on the path to net zero by 2050. Over the timeframe before the decommissioning of Blast Furnace 5, alternative low-emissions technology is unlikely to be commercial at scale. To secure the operations of Australia's steel industry in a low-carbon future, BlueScope must continue to be profitable. BlueScope has committed to \$80 million of improvements through this project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions relative to current production – particularly through heat capture and recovery.

Further, extending the life of the blast furnace will allow BlueScope to incorporate new and emerging technologies to reduce emissions. Over time, BlueScope has potential to be a primary consumer from an Australian clean hydrogen industry, creating a stable profile of demand to allow the industry to grow to scale. BlueScope has demonstrated their commitment to this by its partnerships with Shell and others looking to develop clean hydrogen for Australian industry.

The EIS demonstrates that other local environmental and amenity risks are generally part of the current operation of the Port Kembla Steelworks and can be managed to ensure this project goes ahead while considering the needs of the local community.

We look forward to working with BlueScope and the Department of Planning and Environment to secure a future for steel production at Port Kembla.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Callinan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Callinan  
**BRANCH SECRETARY**