



BlueScope Steel Limited
Mellor Centre
Five Islands Road, Port Kembla NSW 2505
PO Box 1854, Wollongong NSW 2500
P [REDACTED] | M [REDACTED]
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20 March 2020

To:
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Energy

Consultation on National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Amendment Bill

R amendment Bill.

BlueScope has been reporting to the NGER Scheme since it began in 2009 and has concerns with NGER reporting being extended to include Scope 3 emissions.

BlueScope contributed to the Australian Industry Greenhouse Network's submission and supports the points made in that submission.

The following information is provided about BlueScope.

About BlueScope

BlueScope is Australia's largest steel manufacturer and the only flat steel producer. The company employs 6,500 people in Australia's regions and cities to supply its nationwide customers in the building and construction, manufacturing, transport, and agriculture sectors. BlueScope also exports steel products (including approximately 700,000 tonnes per annum of exports from its Australian operations) and is a global leader in premium coated and painted steel products, operating in 18 countries.

The company's largest Australian manufacturing plant is the Port Kembla Steelworks and adjacent Springhill Works, which together employ approximately 3,500 people directly, and a further 5,400 indirectly. The plant accounts for approximately 10 per cent of jobs in the Illawarra region (8,900), 11 per cent of Gross Regional Product (\$1.6 billion) and 24 per cent of the region's total output (\$6.5 billion).

Steel is a fundamental building block of any modern society and a domestic steel manufacturing capability is a critical and strategically valuable asset for Australia's future economic security and prosperity.

The domestic steel industry operates under very low tariffs and non-tariff barriers and faces strong competition from global steelmakers. Accordingly, keeping production costs at globally competitive levels is critical to the viability of the industry. BlueScope's goal is to have sustainable businesses in Australia, which generate enough cash flow and return for investors to support reinvestment in them.

BlueScope's commitment to sustainability

BlueScope believes that sustainability is integral to the long-term growth of the company, and that steel plays a critical role in supporting sustainable local communities and a sustainable society.

The company takes a lifecycle approach, seeking to improve the performance of its products over their entire lifecycles, with a focus on the four principles of a circular economy: reduce, reuse, remanufacture and recycle.

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BlueScope supports the Paris Agreement on climate change and the individually determined national targets of the countries in which it operates. The company believes that climate change presents both risks and opportunities for its operations and stakeholders. It recognises that investors, customers and the communities in which it operates are increasingly demanding that the company disclose these risks and opportunities and act to improve its greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency.

Accordingly, the company publicly reports in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). BlueScope has also set a public target of a one per cent year-on-year reduction in the greenhouse gas intensity of its three steelmaking plants globally (scope 1 and 2). In FY2019, GHG intensity fell by 1.2 per cent compared to FY2018.

In 2018 the company embarked on a seven year, 233,000MWh per annum renewable Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA), for a new 500,000 panel solar farm at Finley in NSW. This PPA will contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity grid by an estimated 300,000 tonnes CO₂-e per annum.

BlueScope reduced its absolute emissions in Australia by approximately 40 per cent, when it closed a blast furnace in 2011.

Many of BlueScope's products are registered under the Australian Environmental Product Declaration program, which provides detailed information about their environmental performance, can assist in determining the environmental impact of buildings and infrastructure that use these products, and can help earn points for Green Star building projects.

BlueScope would be happy to provide further information in support of this submission. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Andrew McClure.

Andrew McClure
Government and Regulatory Projects Manager