



ASI METAL MUSINGS

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Issue 05



Address: Suite G1, Ground floor, 25 Ryde Rd, Pymble 2073

7 February, 2024



ASI presents SSA to Olympics team

The ASI has presented details of the ASI Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) scheme to the executive team responsible for infrastructure at the Brisbane Olympics. The Queensland Government has advised in writing that all new vertical infrastructure projects or significant upgrades for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games will target six star (world leadership) Green Star for Buildings ratings from the Green Building Council of Australia. As sustainable construction materials including steel will need to be sourced across the infrastructure program to meet this commitment, ASI has been actively engaging with government in this space. As part of this process ASI's Sustainability Manager Jerusha Beresford presented details of the ASI Steel Sustainability Australia scheme to the executive team in the Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure Office, Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. A similar presentation to the Queensland Department of Energy & Public Works is being scheduled for February 2024. Read about this and more in ASI Quarterly Update Summer edition.

\$800k grant to JAG Welding for robotics

An \$800,000 Queensland Government grant will enable Redland business JAG Welding to adopt industry leading technology to purchase and install a robotic welding arm and software. The project is estimated to add 15 new full-time jobs and up to 33 over the next five years. The new equipment and software will reduce customer wait time by up to 33 per cent, increase employee safety, profitability and reduce production costs.

Crystal shows way on certification



Member profile

Since joining JMA Engineering four years ago as integrated management system manager, Crystal Petch (*pictured centre*) has played a strong role in ensuring its policies and procedures meet Australian Standards and exceed client expectations. This includes leading the team through ISO certification and ensuring it maintains its CC2 accreditation. Crystal said being part of the ASI has helped the business stay up to date with changes such as recent changes to welding fumes regulations and connect with other fabricators through industry meetings. Resources supplied by ASI have also been utilised when updating procedures within the company. Known for visiting the local schools and skills expos, Crystal is passionate about ensuring youth know there are local work opportunities with the Berri, South Australia-based business and room to move up if they have the drive. Crystal is equally proud of her record as the company's back-to-back footy tipping champion with three wins in three years. "The best thing about living and working regionally is being part of the community, going home to the family every night after a 15-minute drive and getting to spend loads of time on the river," Crystal says. South Australia-based JMA Engineering provides engineering steel design and manufacturing services for government projects including school and hospital refits, and supply of stainless-steel wine and liquid vessels for winery and tank farm upgrades.

Bowen praises renewables approach



Federal Energy Minister Chris Bowen has praised efforts to achieve a sustainable future for the local steel industry. Speaking on ABC Radio Illawarra on January 31, Bowen said Australia's two steel makers BlueScope and Liberty were committed to decarbonisation. He said the government was supporting their efforts in the form of \$136.8 million in funding to reline BlueScope's number 6 blast furnace at Port Kembla, and \$63.2m for Liberty's electric arc furnace project at Whyalla. Both steelmakers are working to reduce their emissions by 4.9% annually under the government's safeguard mechanism.

SCA certification a win for NT

Member profile



NT's construction industry will no longer be forced outside the territory to source steel fabrication services following certification of NT-based fabricator Jakes Steel and Welding (JSW) as an AS/NZS 5131-compliant business. JSW principal Adrian Kroonstuiver said the news had been welcomed by Sitzler, a significant local Tier 1 builder, as it meant larger defence projects can be now kept local to the Territory. "In fact, Sitzlers lamented the fact that they had to award fabrication for the aircraft Hanger at Tindal to an interstate fabrication company last year due to the fact no Territory business was accredited at the time of the award of the tender." Mr Kroonstuiver said the National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme (NSSCS) was an invaluable resource for the industry. "Being the first steel fabricator in the NT to attain AS/NZS 5131 certification through Steelwork Compliance Australia as part of the NSSCS is a momentous achievement for our team."

Last chance to be in awards audience

Register [HERE](#) to be part of the online audience for the announcement of the Australia's most sustainable steel projects and initiatives. The inaugural ASI Steel Sustainability Awards recognise outstanding steel solutions for sustainable impact in the Australian built environment. The winning ideas could be used in YOUR business, so book now to view the awards ceremony. Winners will be announced online on Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 12.30pm (AEDT). Online viewers will receive an email reminder shortly before the event takes place.

Register now for net zero workshop

ASI is partnering with Investment NSW and Ai Group to deliver a training workshop to help prepare ASI members to meet net zero carbon emissions. The *Driving sustainable modern manufacturing* workshop will help businesses future-proof against climate risks and capitalise on new opportunities in the green economy, with a focus on brand reputation, building trust with stakeholders, and offering a competitive edge. The workshop will be held on Thursday February 22 from 9am for 9.30am start until 12.30pm at Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek. Details: <https://www.steel.org.au/news-and-events/events/futuremap-net-zero-workshop/>.

Apply now for fellowships

Applications are being sought for the 2024 round of Churchill Fellowships. The fellowships offer Australians the opportunity to travel overseas and investigate a topic they are passionate about. No formal qualifications are required. Applicants design their own itinerary and travel for four to eight weeks at a time of their choosing. The options are virtually limitless, providing the project has potential to benefit Australia and applicants are willing to share their findings when they return. Applications open 1 March and close 1 May 2024. A series of information sessions is being hosted this month to provide valuable advice to potential applicants. These free, hour-long online sessions are based around different themes, including arts and trades this coming Thursday, February 8, at 5.30pm; and science technology and environment on Thursday, February 29, at 5.30pm. People who can't make either event are welcome to join one of the other sessions, no matter the theme. Details: www.churchillfellowships.com.au.

Get energy bills under control

With energy bills soaring, finding the best price for electricity and gas is VITAL for your bottom line. The Australian Steel Institute (ASI) through its new corporate partner Choice Energy is helping members navigate this increasingly complex energy maze through a free energy health check. Register [HERE](#) at to find out what solution is the most sustainable for you, how it fits your budget and what YOU can do to further reduce your energy use and costs, or email Alex Townsend at alex.townsend@choiceenergy.com.

Busy year for advocacy

2023 was a busy year for advocacy by the ASI. In January, ASI lodged a submission to the Senate Economics Committee on the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Bill. In February, it produced *ASI Whitepaper 2023 - A Sovereign and Sustainable Australian Steel Industry*. In March, it lodged a submission to the House Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources inquiry into developing advanced manufacturing in Australia. In July, it lodged a submission to the Buy Australian Plan consultation (Department of Industry, Science and Resources). In August, it lodged a submissions to the Australian Bureau of Statistics updating the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (manufacturing occupations); the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water review of the national hydrogen strategy; and a submission on the Green Paper on South Australia's Energy Transition. In September, it lodged a submission to the ACT Government's Developing ACT's Integrated Energy Plan. In October, it provided feedback on the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (Department of Industry, Science and Resources); a submission to the NSW Climate Change Bill; and a submission to the Roadmap to establish an Australian decommissioning industry issues paper (Department of Industry, Science and Resources). In November, it provided a submission to the Future Gas Strategy consultation paper (Department of Industry, Science and Resources). In December, it provided submissions to the Carbon Leakage Review Consultation paper (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water); and Strengthening Victoria's Local Jobs First Act 2003 consultation paper.

Safety watch

ASI is partnering with the Steel Research Hub in Wollongong on a project to develop wearable sensors to enhance the health and safety of construction workers. Dr Aziz Ahmed and his hub team recently secured seed funds from the 2023 Telstra-UOW Hub for Artificial Intelligence of Things (AIOT) Solutions. The primary innovation involves the development of a deep-learning algorithm.