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New Olympic goals

The Brisbane Olympics will set a new high bar for sustainability by seeking lower-carbon steel products, the ASI's latest *Quarterly Update* newsletter reveals. *Quarterly Update Spring Edition* reports the Queensland Government has advised ASI all new vertical infrastructure projects or significant upgrades will target six star (world leadership) Green Star for Buildings ratings from the Green Building Council of Australia. Sustainable construction materials will need to be sourced across the Brisbane 2032 infrastructure program to meet this commitment, which will include a significant demand for lower carbon new, recycled and reused steel products. Globally, *Quarterly Update* reports international steel prices, costs and profitability have returned to prices more typical of the pre-pandemic period. For the full report, go to <https://www.steel.org.au/resources/elibrary/resources/asi-quarterly-update-spring-2023/>

Enter awards NOW!

Time is running out to enter the ASI's national Steel Sustainability Awards. If you have a project or initiative demonstrating exemplary sustainable performance, enter NOW and see your work recognised and rewarded nationally. Entries close 10 November 2023. The awards are open to everyone in the steel supply chain eg, architects, designers, engineers, steel manufacturers, distributors, fabricators, processors, builders or constructors. A case study profiling your award-winning entry and contributions from staff will be included in the ASI's national steel *Australia* magazine. Details: <https://www.steel.org.au/sustainability-awards/>

Pierce Engineering shows the way on AS/NZS 5131 compliance



Member profile

Helping members meet their compliance obligations is an increasingly important function for the ASI. A recent beneficiary of ASI support is Queensland-based Pierce Engineering, which faced an unexpected setback when its tender for a government contract was impacted by AS/NZS 5131 requirements. With initial guidance and assistance from the ASI, Pierce Engineering has started its journey towards certification as a Category 2 construction company under the ASI's Steel Compliance Australia (SCA) scheme. Category 2 certification will enable the company to undertake work in all fields from blasting and painting to fabrication and erection where that level of compliance is required. Pierce Engineering director Mark Pierce said ASI provided the background information, to prepare its application for SCA. "The region is growing fast, and in order for us to grow with it we must adapt with an eye to the future," Pierce said. Pierce Engineering first began in Kawana, Queensland in 1968 under the guidance of owner Noel Pierce. Sons Mark and Wayne have since taken over the business, growing the business and continuing Noel's track record of success. Highly commended in the ASI's 2018 Steel Excellence Awards for its Cathedral College outdoor undercover area project (pictured), Pierce Engineering's other projects include all structural steel fabrication and installation for the Rockhampton Art Gallery.

Steel Dale chalks up 40+ years

Member profile



Matt Perera
Business development manager

Founded by Ray Sprigg in 1982, Western Australia heavy engineering and manufacturing company Steel Dale Industries has grown into a multi-layered business serving Australia and overseas. Customers range from mining heavy industry to agriculture, infrastructure and oil and gas. With a production team of qualified welders, highly experienced fabricators, fitters and painters, Steel Dale's design and engineering services include 3D modelling, drafting and shop detailing. Business development and technical manager Matt Perera brings to the business experience managing heavy engineering in offshore and onshore steel construction projects.

Continued jobs shortages

Latest figures from Jobs and Skills Australia reveal continued jobs shortages in the steel industry, with fitter and metal fabricator jobs particularly affected. As of June 2023, the total number of employed people in all jobs increased by 409,900 people over the past year, the unemployment rate remained historically low at 3.5% and employment-to-population ratio was a strong 64.5%. JSA's 2023 [Skills Priority List](#) shows that 36% of occupations were in national shortage (332 out of 916), about 5 percentage points higher than 2022 (31% of occupations). There were also 266 occupations (or 29%) that were in shortage in both 2022 and 2023 SPLs. Among these 47% were professionals, mostly related to health, engineering, information communication technology (ICT) and science roles. Another 33% were technician and trades workers occupations, with machinery operators and drivers (34%) and labourers (36%) most affected. All five of the largest employing non-construction trades occupations were also in shortage, including fitter (general) and metal fabricator. The SPL help informs skills provision from sources such as vocational education and training, higher education and migration.

Huge energy saving deals for members

With energy prices soaring, ASI is offering members a new service to cut costs. A partnership with Australian-owned and operated energy consultancy Choice Energy offers members a range of packages to slash energy bills, consume less power and reduce their carbon footprint. One of the first members to use Choice Energy under the new partnership is a South Australian steel fabrication company, which will save more than \$3,000 a year under a new Choice deal. Other steel businesses among Choice Energy 9,000 customers nationally include steel frames and trusses manufacturer Austruss, which is saving \$1.79 million over 25 years by converting to commercial solar - and Victorian-based BB Truss, which is saving \$20,000 per year over 25 years through the use of solar. Choice Energy partnerships manager Alex Townsend said Austruss was keen to explore ways for ASI members to consume less grid power and save on their energy bills. "As a socially-responsible company, they wanted to understand how they can reduce their carbon footprint and become more environmentally sustainable. After reviewing many solar companies, Austruss chose to partner with Choice Energy because of our holistic energy management model and solar performance guarantee." Choice Energy obtained consumption and demand interval data from the electricity network provider and was able to design a commercial solar system offsetting the business' peak energy consumption during sunlight hours. "The system is financed in a way that means no upfront capital investment and the repayments are less than they were paying previously for grid power, so they didn't need to find a budget - and this meant the system was cashflow positive from day one," Townsend said. The system was self-funded by Austruss and did not require finance, but had they financed it would have been cash flow positive. For an obligation free energy bill health check, contact Alex Townsend on 0435 080 646, email him at alex.townsend@choiceenergy.com.au or register your interest at <https://choiceenergy.com.au/contact>.

Sarah first when it comes to service

Member profile



Sarah Orlando
Aurecon librarian

When staff at ASI member Aurecon need help accessing a standard, article or research, librarian Sarah Orlando is there to help. The super sleuth is skilled at searching for and finding a whole range of often-external information to support the delivery of Aurecon's projects and client work. This year Sarah celebrates 15 years at Aurecon. Holding a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts and a graduate diploma in library science, Sarah is more than equipped for her research role. She is in regular contact with ASI's librarian Rebecca Rouse, and a prolific user and supporter of ASI resources including the ASI bookshop, where Aurecon has an account for 31 eBooks.

Online NCC help for builders/designers

Online advice to help builders comply with changes to the National Construction Code (NCC) will be available on the ASI website from next week. The information will interest a wide range of construction industry stakeholders including manufacturers, designers, installers, builders, developers, certifiers and specialists in areas of energy efficiency and bushfire. Covered in the guidance notes are:

- **Condensation management for steel roofing** (covers new advice on moisture management for steel roofs and practical ventilation approaches; how roof designs and pitch influence condensation risk and how different steel roof systems inherently manage condensation).
 - **Ventilation in steel roofing**: Discusses new requirements for ventilation in residential roofs in Climate Zones 6,7 and 8, and how common steel profiles can contribute passive ventilation in the roof space).
 - **Steel wall cladding**: Outlines principles and provides guidance for single-skin steel wall cladding products relating to weathertightness, moisture management and structural support with reference to NCC requirements for non-cyclonic areas. Also includes guidance on insulated sandwich panels.
 - **Bushfire design and construction**: Outlines principles and guidance for bushfire design with explanation of the two independent pathways to achieve compliance for residential buildings (AS3959 or NASH Bushfire Standard).
 - **Energy efficiency of insulated panels**: Provides guidance on utilising insulated sandwich panels to simplify compliance with the energy efficiency requirements of NCC 2022.
 - **Energy efficiency solutions for steel framed buildings**: NCC 2022 raises the required level of energy efficiency in Class 1 buildings from NatHERS 6-star to 7-star equivalent and introduces new requirements relating to the thermal bridging of framing materials. Explanation of changes and examples of easy to install construction solutions are provided.
- Each topic includes information on how to detail common installations and a summary video presentation. Check the ASI website next week for details.