



**Melinda Pavey**  
Minister for Water, Property & Housing

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **RECYCLED WATER A WIN-WIN FOR STEEL INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY IN 10-YEAR DEAL**

The future of steel manufacturing in Australia has received a welcome boost with a new 10-year water supply contract between Sydney Water and BlueScope Steel helping secure jobs in the Illawarra while protecting the local water supply.

Sydney Water will supply up to 20 megalitres of recycled water daily from the Wollongong Water Recycling Plant to BlueScope's Port Kembla Steelworks

Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey says the manufacturing industry is part of the backbone of the Illawarra economy and this Government is proud to do all we can to support it.

"This agreement not only supports local jobs it also helps safeguard our valuable water supply. To put that in context, 20 megalitres a day represents 20 per cent of the daily demand on Avon Dam, which is the main water supply for Wollongong and the Illawarra," Mrs Pavey said.

"That means we're significantly reducing demand on the local water supply, ensuring we've got a resilient water network to support us now and into the future."

Sydney Water Managing Director Roch Cheroux says, "Sydney Water supplied its first drop of recycled water to BlueScope back in 2006 and has continued to deliver the critical resource ever since.

"The new contract ensures we can continue to deliver a sustainable and affordable water supply for a further 10 years, helping create world-class steel products right here in our own backyard, keeping this valuable industry sustainable for the future."

"Over the next two decades, Sydney Water plans to double the amount of recycled water we can produce to support businesses like BlueScope well into the future and we encourage businesses to look at the benefits of using recycled water

BlueScope's Chief Executive, Australian Steel Products, John Nowlan says they were proud to extend their partnership with Sydney Water for another decade. We are committing to invest around \$800,000 to upgrade the Sydney Water pipeline that supplies recycled water to our plant.

"We are very proud of our water story. For the last 14 years, less than 3% of our total water usage at the Port Kembla Steelworks has drawn down on dam water reserves with the other 97% coming from recycled water and saltwater from the Ocean."

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward welcome the announcement and reaffirmed BlueScope's importance to the local economy.

"The NSW Government is using more Australian steel than any other government in the country. The Albion Park Rail Bypass and the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade are great examples of that," Mr Ward said.

"BlueScope is critical to our infrastructure program, and its environmental and corporate citizenry is a good example for other businesses across our region and country to follow."

The Wollongong Water Recycling Plant also supplies recycled water to the Wollongong Golf Course and supports operations at the Port Kembla Coal Terminal.

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