



Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

Hearing date: 10/12/2025

Question taken on notice

Directed to: Jerusha Beresford, Australian Steel Institute

Received date: 14 January 2026

1. P.54 Sarah Mansfield

Question: What are the sorts of jobs that could be created if we did invest more in recycled steel capacity locally?

Jerusha BERESFORD: That is a good question. Can I take that question on notice?

Response: *Victoria has a well-established steel recycling supply chain that has been operating for over 40 years and provides ferrous scrap to the Laverton Steelworks. The Laverton steelworks produce over 780,000 tonnes of new high-quality steel from recycled scrap and is investing to increase its capacity to 1 million tonnes by 2030.*

By ensuring that the oil and gas infrastructure is recycled in Victoria supports and grows jobs in the recycling, logistics and the Victorian steel industry.

Too often unprocessed scrap is exported to avoid Victoria's landfill levies for the residual non-metallic products that are unable to be recycled.

2. P.54-55 Tom McIntosh

Question: - I think a key point is that there is not enough scrap metal at the moment, so it is an opportunity for industry to expand. If we are talking, I think we said, about 0.7 million tonnes at Laverton, for example – and the proposed volumes that we have got coming out are just massive – would industry have a willingness or be likely to invest in their own infrastructure, in processing more jobs and in more economic activity in Victoria? As we are talking about this being a 10- or 20-year pipeline of decommissioning, and knowing that supply is coming, is that something that industry would likely do?

Jerusha BERESFORD: I would not be able to answer that from InfraBuild's perspective. I am happy to take that question on notice, and they can answer it directly –

Response: Yes. *InfraBuild is currently investing in their capacity to produce steel from recycled scrap – i.e., from 780kt to 1 million tonnes by 2030.*

3. P.56 Gaelle Broad

Question: -Has there been steel recycled from decommissioned facilities to date?

Jerusha BERESFORD: Yes, of course. It is business as usual for us. When steel comes out of buildings or from whitegoods or wherever, it all goes to the scrap recycler and then the steel manufacturers will purchase that scrap from the recycler.

Gaelle BROAD: But as far as facilities like oil and gas facilities that have been decommissioned, are you aware –

Jerusha BERESFORD: Oil and gas – again, I will have to take that question on notice, sorry.

Response: *According to the demolition contractors on this project, CMA Contracting, yes oil and gas facilities have been decommissioned off coast of the Northern Territory, but the scrap steel has been exported, and not recycled locally, presumably because of the complexities and costs with transporting the steel across the country to the steel recycling facilities. The Hazelwood Power Station in Latrobe Valley was demolished in 2020 with approximately 30,000 tonnes of steel recycled locally.*

The following 2 questions were recorded by ASI as unanswered questions which we have provided a response to.

4. **Question from The CHAIR:** Do you think that would be in a broader piece of regulation or do you think it would be part of any of the conditions for approvals that might apply to the grants of permits that exist from the particular regulatory arrangements governing the decommissioning of the oil and gas infrastructure? Do you know what I mean? There are general rules with a general application. Or do you think it should occur in specific conditions that might apply to licences under the oil and gas regulations?

Jerusha BERESFORD: I guess I am not really in a position to answer that. I am not really aware of the full process.

ASI Response: *Yes it should be both. Too often unprocessed scrap is exported to avoid Victoria's landfill levies for the residual non-metallic products that are unable to be recycled. Any regulation or policy on addressing this issue is encouraged.*

5. **Question from Gaelle BROAD:** When it comes to wind turbines, if you look at 400,000 tonnes of steel per year for renewables, do we have that? Do we have the capacity to deliver for that demand?

Jerusha BERESFORD: Yes, I hope so, too. I guess just from a scale perspective, we are manufacturing about 6 million tonnes of steel a year, but that is for everything. But obviously they are ramping up to manufacture more than that over time of course, up to 2030. I do not have the figures on me now, though, but I can definitely get those to you as to what our steel manufacturers' capacities are going forward. I can definitely get those figures.

Response: *Yes, we have the capacity. ASI's document on renewables stated that to meet existing 2030 targets, more than 400,000 tonnes of steel will be required per annum for all renewable energy infrastructure (transmission, solar, wind etc.), of which 50% (200,000 tonnes of steel) would be required for wind towers. The Australian steel producers have a total steel capacity of 6 million tonnes per year. The steel required for wind towers is predominantly steel plate. According to BlueScope's FY2024-25 Report, BlueScope's Plate Mill is being upgraded from current capacity of 430,000 to 600,000 tonnes per year, an increase of 170,000 tonnes per year by mid-2027.*