AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE

CANELAND ENGINEERING Pty Ltd

SCA
STEELWORK COMPLIANCE AUSTRALIA

Structural & General Steel Fabrication, Erection & Crane Hire – Est. 1966
ABN: 51 451 007 087

Submitted by: Caneland Engineering Pty Ltd
Location: Bundaberg, Queensland
Date: 30th March, 2026

Purpose of Submission
This submission is made in response to the Government's request for stakeholder input regarding the recent increase in imports of finished and semi-finished steel products into Australia and the resulting impacts on domestic industry.
As a participant in the Australian Steel Supply chain, our business supplies locally sourced steel materials to Australian based Builders and Contractors. We are therefore directly exposed to structural changed in domestic demand linked to import competition

Observed Market Changes
Over the past 12-24 months, our company has observed a measurable decline in projects that are awarded to us from companies that we previously worked for. We are also finding we are being used to quote to give them a price to compare to overseas product.
These imports are often supplied at price points that we as an Australian based fabricator cannot compete with.
As a result, we are finding that Builders are bypassing local fabrication and purchasing finished imported products instead.
This shift reduces the need for locally based machining services and fabrication work which weakens the broader domestic manufacturing ecosystem.

The list is as per below is projects we have missed out on due to overseas imports being used.

- CATERPILLAR DRIVE – 130T
- GATEWAY DRIVE – 130T
- TRANSPORT AVE – 75T
- MITCHELMORE ST – 350T
- HASTINGS MACKAY – 950T
- EZY GROUP RENTALS – 100T
- CENTURION PAGET – 400T
- TEFOL PAGET – 100T
- MAGGIOLO DRIVE -160
- FEDEX BUNDABERG – 45T

Some of our competitors have closed their doors due to being unable to compete. We have been able to pick up other projects because of their misfortune which has helped keep us trading.

Economic and Industry Impacts
The trend has several broader implications:
Australia risks losing skilled manufacturing activity where steel would otherwise be fabricated locally, supporting engineering capability and industrial employment.
This follows that the supply chain will diminish which would affect local steel suppliers, processors, transport operators, galvanisers and many other small businesses that contribute to the chain.
A sustained decline in domestic steel fabrication capacity could affect Australia's ability to support infrastructure projects including defence, hospitals, schools and critical maintenance sectors in the future.

Concerns regarding Import Conditions
While we understand the importance of open trade, we are more concerned with the conditions under which imported steel products are entering the market.
This includes:

- Potential price distortions due to subsidised production overseas.
- Differences in environmental compliance costs.
- Variations in labour standards and industrial regulations.
- Possible gaps in enforcement of anti-dumping or quality controls.
- Australian companies must comply with Australian Standards and Construction Category Certifications (CC1,CC2, CC3)

These are factors that may create an uneven playing field for Australian Companies.

Suggested Areas for Government Consideration
We respectfully suggest that the Government consider:

- Reviewing import trends and price behaviour in finished and fabricated steel products including lowering the tonnage of imported fabricated steel products.
- Assessing whether current anti-dumping mechanisms adequately cover downstream fabricated goods, not only raw steel.
- Evaluating the cumulative impact on domestic manufacturing capability, not solely short term consumer pricing.
- Considering procurement policies or industry support measures that encourage local fabrication where feasible.
- Ensuring imported structural or engineered steel products meet equivalent certification and compliance standards as domestic production.

Conclusion
Australia's steel and manufacturing sectors form part of a broader industrial ecosystem that supports employment, skills, infrastructure resilience, and national capability.

We submit that recent import trends risk undermining this ecosystem and warrant careful policy examination to ensure that competition remains fair and that Australia retains its industrial capacity.
We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and would be willing to supply further data or participate in industry consultation if required.