

**Submission to the *National Competition Policy analysis*
2025**

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The Australian Steel Institute (**ASI**) is pleased to make a submission to the *National Competition Policy analysis 2025*.

Introduction

The ASI is the nations peak body representing the entire steel supply chain, from the primary producers through to end users in building and construction, resources, heavy engineering and manufacturing.

Its membership base includes nearly 7,000 individuals that are associated with more than 700 corporate memberships.

A not-for-profit member based organisation, the ASI's activities extend to, and promote, advocacy and support, steel excellence, standards and compliance, training, events and publications. The ASI provides marketing and technical leadership to promote Australian-made steel as the preferred material to the resources, construction, and manufacturing industries, as well as policy advocacy to government.

The Australian steel industry

The Australian steel industry consists of three primary steel producers, supported by over 300 steel distribution and processing sites throughout the country and hundreds of manufacturing, fabrication and engineering companies.

Australia's primary steel producers and steel product manufacturers together form a strategically important value chain that has the capability to supply in excess of 90 per cent of the steel grades and qualities required in this country. If special categories such as very large diameter pipe, stainless steel, electrical steel, and tinplate are excluded, then the capability is significantly closer to 100 per cent.

Australia produces around 6 million tonnes of steel per annum across four major manufacturing locations. It is important to note the economic and social contribution of the Australian steel industry. It employs over 100,000 people and generates \$29 billion in annual revenue, and is associated with a disproportionately large share of skilled jobs in regional and rural areas.

The economic contribution of the Australian steel industry is very significant. Based on recently completed analysis conducted by BIS Oxford Economics, it is estimated that for every \$1 million invested,

- 5 workers are employed in the steel and closely related industries,
- \$2.8 million output is contributed to the economy, and
- \$1.1 million of value is added to Australian GDP.

Steel fabrication is essential for manufacturing of bespoke construction products such as foundations, piling, columns, beams, girders, gantries, platforms, and towers. Areas of specialisation include wind turbine towers, transmission towers, storage tanks, chemical processing plant, boilers and pressure vessels, mining infrastructure refurbishment, mobile equipment for underground and surface mining, mobile cranes, bridges, armoured vehicles for Defence, naval and domestic ship building, rolling stock, truck bodies and trailer chassis.

The steel industry is noteworthy in having a high proportion of jobs and businesses located in regional areas or non-capital cities, where unemployment is typically higher than the national average. The industry is technically complex and requires a highly skilled workforce to support it, encouraging the ongoing presence of high-quality tertiary education institutions in regional areas.

Australian Standards and the steel industry

The Australian steel industry is a significant stakeholder in the development and maintenance of Australian Standards, with many dozens of Standards directly or indirectly covering the manufacturing, use, and installation of steel products. As a nominating organisation for Standards Australia, the ASI is represented on 25 formally constituted technical committees, that in turn oversee families of individual Standards.

ASI members rely heavily on Australian Standards to design their quality assurance systems, and to manage business risk. Australian Standards are tightly woven into many aspects of steel intensive manufacturing businesses such as, product design, product warranties, technical literature, employee training, and procurement specifications to name a few. In many cases, manufacturing processes have been designed and built around the provisions contained in Australian Standards.

International Standards

Based on the above-described experience of engaging with and utilising Australian Standards over a long timeframe, the ASI has formed the view that International Standards do potentially offer the opportunity to increase the productivity of our economy.

The overarching consideration for Australian adoption of International Standards, either in full or modified form, is that this is done only after comprehensive technical review to ensure these Standards meet our national intent and are aligned with other Standards in our suite.

Yours sincerely,

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