



# INFRABUILD: **BUILDING FUTURES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE STEEL**

*INFRABUILD HAS A RICH HISTORY SPANNING MORE THAN 100 YEARS AND HAS ENTERED AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER, PLAYING AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THE NATION BUILDING OF AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST VERTICALLY-INTEGRATED, ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE-BASED LONG STEEL MANUFACTURER, INFRABUILD HAS A PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 1.5 MTPA AND RECYCLES 1.4 MILLION TONNES OF STEEL PER ANNUM. INFRABUILD OFFERS FULL PROCESSING CAPABILITIES ACROSS HOT ROLLED STRUCTURAL AND WELDED STRUCTURAL SECTIONS, MERCHANT BAR, TUBE, PIPE AND PLATE, DISTRIBUTED VIA A NETWORK OF 150 LOCATIONS NATIONALLY.*

InfraBuild and its brands have been operating continuously in Australia for more than 100 years, providing materials for nation building projects including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Sydney Opera House, major infrastructure, and some of Australia's most loved sports stadiums. This journey began with the opening of the Newcastle Steelworks, which operated for 84 years from 1915.

InfraBuild's distribution business began in 1969 with the listing of Tubemakers of Australia Limited. Since then, InfraBuild has grown its regional footprint through acquisitions and expansion activities, increasing their proximity to customers across the country. In 2017, the company became part of LIBERTY Steel Group and soon after the business was rebranded as InfraBuild.

According to Lige Donald (Group General Manager Steel and Tube, InfraBuild), "We have been operating continuously for more than 100 years and have proud and longstanding connections with the communities we operate in."

## **VERTICALLY INTEGRATED STEEL MANUFACTURER**

"We are Australia's only fully vertically-integrated steel manufacturer in that we have recycling, manufacturing and distribution capabilities servicing large-scale, nation-building non-residential construction and infrastructure projects, as well as the rural and mining and retail sectors," said Lige.

Locally, InfraBuild has two electric arc furnaces – one in Laverton in Victoria and the other in Rooty Hill in Sydney,

as well as 26 recycling sites and eight product manufacturing sites including tube, wire and rod mills across the country.

InfraBuild then processes and distributes these products through 52 locations nationally, which are part of a broader network of 150 distribution locations.

"We have full processing capabilities of all Hot Rolled Structural and welded structural sections, as well as merchant bar, tube, pipe and plate. InfraBuild's Steel and Tube brands have full HRS processing capability for these long product sections up to and including 1200WB," said Lige.

"This processing ability includes sawing, drilling, threading, countersinking,

scribing and coping as well as mechanical coping and slots. This advanced level of processing capability is available at each of our east coast steel distribution facilities as well as Tasmania, South Australia and Northern Territory, where we have mechanical coping capability," said Lige.

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

InfraBuild has recently invested significantly in their processing capability to remain a market leading processing agent for their customers.

"We are continually investing in our facilities, machinery and continuous improvement capabilities to ensure InfraBuild remains the first choice for customers demanding the best quality, capability and processing speeds available in market," said Lige.

"New machines are arriving for our Sydney and Brisbane sites during 2022, which will maintain and ensure our expertise in this area. In addition, the business is continuing to invest in long products processing by extending this capability into central Victoria, central and north Queensland later in 2022 and early 2023."

### UNITED IN BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH STEEL

As Lige explained, the secret to InfraBuild's success is being committed to maintaining a full processing service offer, with market leading technology that makes dealing with the company easier.

"We have a proven capability to deliver against project timelines and work with customers to mitigate risk, understand their requirements and maximise profitability over the life of the project," said Lige. "Given the integrated nature of the InfraBuild business, we're able to provide greater levels of transparency and traceability and are able to demonstrate compliance to the relevant Australian standards and the project's sustainability requirements, ensuring what was designed, is what is procured and installed to the correct specifications."

"Our people are united in our mission to build futures through sustainable steel. We take pride in our contributions to the projects which will shape the futures of communities across the country."

"By being able to supply advanced processing, we provide a competitive advantage for our customers by reducing manual marking and pre-fabrication of long product sections ready for final fabrication. Project times can be reduced from our customers'

work schedules by being able to supply these high accuracy and good quality finished parts ready for fabrication."

### SUSTAINABILITY

InfraBuild's mission is to build futures through sustainable steel—their vertical integration is fundamental to the this.

"We use scrap sourced through our recycling centres to manufacture billets in the electric arc furnaces, which are then used to manufacture merchant bar taken to market through our retail and processing sites of which we have 150 nationwide," said Lige.

"Since 2016, InfraBuild Steel Centre

also has an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) which covers the supply and processing of hot rolled structural steel and merchant bar sections to our customers."

"This makes us the only structural steel distributor in Australia to have an EPD registered with EPD Australasia."

InfraBuild's EPDs were developed in conjunction with thinkstep-anz and independently verified by start2see. Both businesses are highly regarded in terms of Life Cycle Assessment, independent verification and knowledge of the measures



underpinning lifecycle thinking – all vital to environmental management systems.

"Our EPD helps sustainability and design professionals, procurement specialists and constructors make informed project decisions using recognised and verified data. This can also assist projects to gain points in the Green Star and IS Ratings Tools," said Lige.

EPDs quantify the environmental impacts of products, in a standardised and verified way, based on a consistent set of rules known as Product Category Rules (PCR). The results contained in each EPD represent the assessed product and offer customers confidence that the environmental data for products in each EPD is accurate and verified.

### **INTRINSIC VALUE OF A SOVEREIGN SUPPLY CHAIN**

When asked about the biggest opportunity for Australia's steel distribution and processing industry, Lige was optimistic, given the increased importance of a sovereign supply chain. There are, however, some critical factors that require long-term planning and investment to secure this supply chain.

"Resulting from the global shocks caused by COVID-19, disrupted and constrained supply chains and the war in Ukraine, has come the increased recognition of the intrinsic value of a sovereign supply chain, with the need to support Australian made products and the full Australian value chain," said Lige.

"This reshaping of sentiment back towards a strong sovereign domestic supply chain provides the steel industry with an impetus to deploy new solutions and services."

"This creates a great opportunity to adapt and respond to these global challenges and deliver a superior market offer and meet or even exceed the market expectations."

"Sustainability is a must; our industry is one of the highest emitting industries in the world and we make essential materials that contribute to projects that will shape our nation in the future, but the impetus to significantly reduce our emissions is upon us."

"So, it is incumbent on us all in the industry to explore new ways of doing things to contribute to a sustainable future."

"Just as environmental sustainability is critical, so too is social and economic sustainability. We operate in hundreds of communities across the country, providing employment opportunities for local people and injecting money into local economies through our investments, while also supporting community initiatives."

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"It is why securing Australia's steel supply chain is so critical; it enables us to continue investing in communities across the country, employing local people and providing opportunities for young people to pursue their chosen field through our high school STEM program, apprenticeships and graduate programs," said Lige.

**[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INFRABUILD AND THEIR EXTENSIVE SERVICES AND CAPABILITIES >>>](#)**

