

6th September 2023

Developing ACT's Integrated Energy Plan – ACT Government Position Paper – Australian Steel Institute (ASI) submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Developing ACT's Integrated Energy Plan Position Paper.

The consultation question that the ASI would like to provide feedback on relates to:

Electrifying Industry and Heavy Transport

12. How can we best transition industrial zones and infrastructure, and heavy transport away from fossil fuel energy?

As noted in the position paper, the ACT economy is largely services-led but it does have an important light industrial sector, which includes a number of ASI member businesses. These businesses are involved in manufacturing activities such as structural steel fabrication, roll forming (profiling of sheet steel for roofing and cladding), reinforcing processing and consulting engineering, for provision of products and services to the building and construction sector.

In the main these businesses are based around electrically powered equipment, with limited or no reliance on energy from fossil fuels. Therefore, this transition can be expected to have limited impact in regard to their direct operations. The aspect that the ASI would like to highlight is the importance of encouraging these businesses to adopt responsible sourcing in respect of their steel supply. Whilst the processing and fabrication of steel does consume energy, this is relatively insignificant in comparison to the energy required to produce crude steel. For example, when considering a finished steel structure, more than 90% of the embodied energy is associated with the production of the steel from raw materials.

In order to encourage the steel value chain to comply with best practice sustainable operations in steel manufacturing, fabrication and processing, the ASI has initiated the Steel Sustainability Australia (SSA) certification program. The SSA program engages the entire steel value chain by certifying downstream steel businesses such as fabricators, roll formers, and reinforcing processors, and verifying upstream steel producers against best practice environmental, social and governance indicators aligned to the Principles supporting the Green Building Council of Australia's Responsible Product Framework. These Principles include a requirement to source the majority of the steel supply from manufacturers that can demonstrate a commitment to reducing emissions intensity, which can be substantiated via evidence such as an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

More information on the program can be found at the SSA website.
<https://www.steelsustainability.com.au/>

Recommendation: Consider preferencing the use of SSA certified fabricators, roll formers and reinforcing processors in the delivery of ACT Government projects.

Yours sincerely



Regards,
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About the Australian Steel Institute

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 approximately 6,000 individuals that are associated with more than 500 corporate memberships and over 350 individual 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.