

InfraBuild Pushes the Sustainability Envelope

The recently rebranded InfraBuild (formerly LIBERTY OneSteel) will continue to prioritise sustainability initiatives across its manufacturing, distribution and recycling businesses so it can assist projects in achieving sustainability ratings and deliver meaningful and measurable change to the Australian built environment.

InfraBuild understands that the construction sector has an essential role to play in promoting sustainable business practices. The company, with a legacy of over 100 years of continuous leadership in the manufacturing, processing, distribution and supply of steel to Australia's construction, manufacturing, mining and rural sectors, is leading that sustainability push by placing environmental considerations at the forefront of its strategic decision-making.

InfraBuild's aim is to support the construction sector through innovation, collaboration and sustainable business practices to develop increasingly sustainable cities made up of structurally efficient infrastructure and buildings that citizens can use now and well into the future. The company has shown it is dedicated to serving the quadruple bottom line of social, economic, environmental and governance concerns by conducting its operations to global standards. Under its new brand, InfraBuild has undergone a transformation process that makes it ideally placed to harness integrated solutions that can reduce the company's carbon footprint, shorten the supply chain, upgrade skills, stimulate new technologies – and deliver for its customers.

That means using sustainable energy generated, wholesaled and supplied by GFG Alliance's SIMEC Energy Australia in the production and distribution of its products where practicable and optimising the eco-efficiency of those products through the product lifecycle. And it means committing to the role steel plays in the circular economy, including promoting the recovery, reuse and recycling of steel and other products.

Steel Central to Sustainability

Rob Johnson, Customer and Market Relationship Manager for InfraBuild, says sustainability is one of InfraBuild's core values and is firmly embedded at the centre of its strategic vision. "As outlined in GFG Alliance's 2018 Sustainability Report, InfraBuild is committed to continuing the transformation of its operations and our industry through innovation and efficiencies, clean energy solutions and initiatives to reduce water consumption, minimise waste and increase recycling."

InfraBuild works closely with its partners in construction to identify and pursue sustainability initiatives and is a keen supporter of schemes designed to promote sustainable design and construction. Among these schemes are the Green Building Council of Australia's (GBCA) Green Star rating program and the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia's (ISCA) Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) rating tool program.

InfraBuild recently supported the development and release of version 2.0 of the IS rating tool, which is noteworthy for its recognition of, and reward for, initiatives related to social

Barangaroo Precinct

Barangaroo is transforming the western shoreline of Sydney's CBD, opening up a new precinct with world-class amenities and leading sustainability credentials. Australian-made steel is making it possible. InfraBuild Construction Solutions (formerly LIBERTY OneSteel Reinforcing) supplied over 45,000 tonnes of ACRS-certified reinforcing steel product for the completed phase of the precinct over a 4.5-year supply period. Processes were implemented to ensure a 20 per cent reduction in embodied carbon for the reinforcing steel used, contributing to the project's 6 Star Green Star rating.



and economic sustainability in infrastructure projects. It is also a partner to ISCA's ISupply program, which connects sustainable products and services with projects and assets to help them achieve sustainability outcomes rewarded under the IS rating scheme.

Importantly, InfraBuild can help projects earn Green Star and IS rating tool points when they use InfraBuild products manufactured using energy-reducing Polymer Injection Technology (PIT) and supplied with an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). InfraBuild offers five EPDs in total, all of which provide transparent information about the environmental impact of a product throughout its lifecycle. InfraBuild is the only integrated steel manufacturer and supplier in Australia to offer EPDs for its range of structural and reinforcing steel long products.

InfraBuild ensures it has environmental management systems at all of its major manufacturing operations that comply with International Standard ISO14001:2015 and that its sites have achieved external certification. The company also provides global leadership on sustainability matters through its affiliation with worldsteel and has been a Climate Action Member through its reporting of CO₂ data for over a decade.

Reducing Waste in Construction

Metals recycling has become an increasingly important way for industry and society to limit resource consumption and reduce the amount of waste entering landfill.

Through its InfraBuild Recycling arm (formerly LIBERTY OneSteel Recycling), InfraBuild has become a significant contributor to the raw material requirements of Australia's steel industry by expanding its capacity for the handling of scrap steel volumes. InfraBuild Recycling operates in 22 locations in Australia (as well as three in Asia) and handles and processes more than 1.4 million tonnes of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal every year (making it Australia's second largest metal recycler).

Locally sourced scrap steel is distributed to InfraBuild Steel's Electric Arc Furnaces and steel mills so it can manufacture and distribute new steel products through InfraBuild's Steel Centre and Construction Solutions operations, as well as providing supply to international customers.

In an effort to increase capacity to meet the demands of key infrastructure projects, InfraBuild Recycling has recently invested more capital expenditure than ever before across its sites, particularly at its largest operation, in Laverton, Victoria. That site has recently received its biggest upgrade in two



decades with new access roads, equipment and weighbridges all helping to increase capacity for recycled steel.

Where possible, InfraBuild also reduces its waste footprint by repurposing various by-products and waste products by selling them to downstream parties for use or by disposing of them in a sustainable way.

Sustainability in the Circular Economy

InfraBuild champions the use of steel in the circular economy because it aids sustainable procurement in the materials supply chain and because it is the ideal material to reuse at the end of the project lifecycle.

It recognises that dematerialisation (the use of less steel to achieve the same outcome) is a key part of making projects more sustainable. And it actively promotes the idea that steel can be 'designed for deconstruction'.

InfraBuild also occupies a unique position in the Australian market by being able to offer its customers visibility and assurance at every point in the materials supply chain. "Customers are demanding increased transparency and traceability through their supply chains to ensure compliance to standards and sustainability criteria," explains Rob.

"Our fully integrated supply chain model gives customers confidence that the product delivered will meet project specifications and design intent. We have transparency and traceability over each aspect of our supply chain."

InfraBuild's ability to provide confidence in the provenance of its products also protects against the scourge of worker exploitation in the supply chain. This is essential now that legislation has been enacted in Australia that requires companies to address modern slavery in their supply chains.

With InfraBuild's manufacturing, distribution and recycling businesses working together to deliver integrated sustainability solutions, and by continuing to promote sustainable design and construction at every turn, InfraBuild looks set to deliver on its green promise to its customers, society and the global environment.

"InfraBuild is committed to continuing the transformation of its operations and our industry through innovation and efficiencies, clean energy solutions and initiatives to reduce water consumption, minimise waste and increase recycling," says Rob Johnson (Customer and Market Relationship Manager for InfraBuild).