



Close view of cleaner steelmaking at Whyalla

The plant tour delegation represented a broad cross-section of the steel industry; (L to R) Chris Williams (Smorgon Steel Distribution), Dean Trenwith (BlueScope Steel), Brenton Marcinkowski (OneSteel MM), Peter Allen (Fielders), Luc Herwin (Hills Industries), Scott Bourne (OneSteel MM), Corey Burford (Bianco Steel), Lou Arnold (Coil Steels), Ian Cairns (ASI), Phil Badcock (Brice Metals), Paul Maione (MWS Engineering), Joel Fudali (MWS Engineering), Russell Chataway (OneSteel Distribution), Laurie Gentilico (MWS Engineering) and Drew Hobbs (OneSteel Sheet & Coil).

The ASI South Australian Committee inspected first hand advanced new steelmaking facilities at OneSteel's Whyalla plant during April.

Led by OneSteel's National Product Manager Structural, Scott Bourne and Perry Eden from the Whyalla Steelworks, the highlight of the visit was a comprehensive inspection tour of Project Magnet.

Project Magnet was originally approved in 2004 to convert the Whyalla Steelworks to produce steel from magnetite ore, rather than hematite ore.

According to the ASI's National Manager, Manufacturing & Distribution, Ian Cairns, who joined the visit, the program is expected to generate in excess of A\$1.5 billion revenue over the next 10 years.

"This is expected to provide South Australia with further export income and, closer to home, enable the Whyalla community to look towards the future with confidence," he said.

Project Magnet will also extend the life of Whyalla Steelworks from the current constraint of 2020 imposed by the hematite ore reserves to at least 2027.

Converting the pelletising process from a dry to a wet operation, plus the changes to logistics, also bring environmental benefits because they will significantly reduce fugitive dust from the pellet plant and other sources. The hematite ore is railed from the mine, 65km from Whyalla's township, to the port, while the magnetite ore is sent to Whyalla through a slurry pipe.

Project Magnet is scheduled for completion by the first quarter of next financial year.

The steelworks tour also took in the main steelmaking area and rolling mill, reviewed in full operation.

Over 3000 people are employed directly and as contractors throughout the OneSteel Whyalla business.

An ASI South Australian Committee meeting, chaired by Ted Lojczyk from BlueScope Steel, was held following the tour of the steelworks.

The ASI and the South Australian Committee thanks OneSteel for their cooperation and hospitality during the visit.