



BlueScope Steel Limited  
ABN 16 000 011 058  
Level 11, 120 Collins St  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
AUSTRALIA  
Telephone +61 3 9666 4000  
Facsimile +61 3 9666 4111  
[www.bluescopesteel.com](http://www.bluescopesteel.com)

## ASX Release

**Release Time:** IMMEDIATE  
**Date:** 15 December 2004

### **Approvals Granted for New COLORBOND® Steel Paintline in Western Sydney**

BlueScope Steel (ASX: BSL) today announced Board approval of expenditure of approximately \$120 million for the Company's previously announced new COLORBOND® steel paintline to be built at Erskine Park in Western Sydney.

"We expect construction of the facility to commence immediately. We have already undertaken detailed preparatory work and the project is expected to be fully operational by mid calendar 2007," commented Noel Cornish, President Australian Building and Manufacturing Markets.

"The Hon. Diane Beamer, NSW Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Planning Administration) yesterday at Penrith City Council announced the granting of the Development Approval. We are very appreciative of the support and assistance we have received from the NSW Government, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Penrith City Council and the Department of State and Regional Development."

"The paintline will be a flexible 120,000tpa market focused facility capable of meeting the specific needs of local customers in the building and manufacturing sectors.

"Erskine Park is centrally located among our many customers in one of the fastest growing and developing regions in Australia," Mr Cornish continued. "The site is also well served by Sydney's motorway infrastructure, including the new M7 Motorway. The proposed Link Road connecting Erskine Park to the M7 was a critical factor in the site selection.

The plant will create approximately 65 new jobs when it is commissioned in 2007 and up to 120 jobs during the construction phase.

#### **About BlueScope Steel Limited (ASX: BSL)**

BlueScope Steel is the leading steel producer in Australia and New Zealand, supplying the majority of the flat steel products sold in these markets. BlueScope Steel's principal customers are in the building and construction, automotive, packaging and general manufacturing industries. The Company's steelworks at Port Kembla is Australia's largest and one of the world's lowest cost producers of hot rolled coil. Steel rolling, coating and painting plants are located in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, and the Company has a network of roll-forming facilities across the Asia Pacific region that is unmatched by any other steel company. Additional metal coating and painting lines are under construction in China, Vietnam and Thailand.

BlueScope Steel also has a 50 per cent interest in a steel mini-mill in Delta, Ohio, USA. In April 2004, the Company completed the acquisition of Butler Manufacturing, with operations in North America and China, creating a strong, global steel building components and pre-engineered buildings business. The Company has also announced it will construct three new manufacturing facilities in India.

For further information about BlueScope Steel Limited: [www.bluescopesteel.com](http://www.bluescopesteel.com)

**Contacts:**

**Media**

**Sandi Harwood**

Manager External Affairs

BlueScope Steel Limited

Tel: +61 3 9666 4039

Mobile: +61 (0) 411 027 006

E-mail: [Sandi.Harwood@bluescopesteel.com](mailto:Sandi.Harwood@bluescopesteel.com)

**Investor**

**John Knowles**

Vice President Investor Relations

BlueScope Steel Limited

Tel: +61 3 9666 4150

Mobile: +61 (0) 419 893 491

E-mail: [John.Knowles@bluescopesteel.com](mailto:John.Knowles@bluescopesteel.com)