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Joel Aulbury
Australian Energy Market Commission
Project Reference: ERC0270

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Submission on Improving Transparency and Extending Duration of MT PASA

BlueScope Steel (**BlueScope**) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the AEMC on the rule change consultation paper related to improving transparency and extending the duration of the MT PASA.

BlueScope is Australia's largest steel manufacturer and the only flat steel producer. We employ 6,500 people in Australian regions and cities to supply our nationwide customers in the building and construction, manufacturing, transport, and agriculture sectors. BlueScope also exports steel products and is a global leader in premium coated and painted steel products, operating in 17 countries.

As a large electricity consumer with sites in all NEM regions, energy affordability, reliability and security are fundamental to the competitiveness of our business. Over recent years, BlueScope has transformed its operations to return to profitability. Keeping domestic production costs competitive remains paramount and energy is a major cost in steelmaking. Rising energy costs represent the single largest increase in BlueScope's local production costs. More expensive energy directly affects our capacity to invest and provide employment.

BlueScope strongly supports the rule change as proposed by ERM as it seeks to reduce the information asymmetry in the market by requiring AEMO to publish expected availability by unit rather aggregate. BlueScope believes that this will be beneficial as it will provide more information to the market and importantly to customers to be able to make informed decisions on managing their electricity costs.

Secondly, the rule change request proposes that AEMO updates the demand forecast closer to summer to incorporate near-term expectations for weather to get a more accurate forecast for unserved energy and potential RERT requirements. BlueScope is supportive of this proposal as it should assist AEMO in summer preparedness and help more effectively manage system reliability costs.

BlueScope is also supportive of extending the outlook of MT PASA from two to three years with market participants required to provide information for up to three years ahead, and AEMO required to forecast information and run the MT PASA process up to three years ahead. This will not only provide more transparency but better align the forecast to the timing of the Retailer Reliability Obligation (RRO).

For more detailed responses to the consultation paper, BlueScope supports the submission lodged by the Energy Users Association of Australia (EUAA).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. If further comment or clarification is required please contact Bridgette Carter, Manager Energy Sourcing & Utilisation on 02 4240 1749.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B Carter".

Bridgette Carter
Manager Energy Sourcing & Utilisation