

Company	Bluescope Steel
Code	BSL
Meeting	AGM
Date	21 November 2019
Venue	Stamford Hotel, Brisbane
Monitor	Barbara Crook, John Whittington and Silvana Eccles

Number attendees at meeting	56 shareholders, 7 nominated persons, 3 non-voting shareholders and 44 visitors
Number of holdings represented by ASA	226
Value of proxies	\$4.6m
Number of shares represented by ASA	327,840
Market capitalisation	\$10,747m
Were proxies voted?	Yes, on a poll
Pre AGM Meeting?	Yes, with Chair, Mr John Bevan, Treasurer and Head of Investor Relations, Don Wattes and Sustainability Manager, Tim Rodsted

## Bluescope has had a three year 'purple' patch

All three presenters, the Chair John Bevan, CEO Mark Vassella and Chair of Remuneration and Organisation Committee, Jenny Bingham-Hall spoke enthusiastically about the company's performance and its outlook. The Chair summarised the business, *Bluescope is a resilient, global company with high quality assets to take advantage of tough cyclical conditions*.

The \$700m expansion of its US Ohio North Star plant is on schedule. Air permits have been received, numerous contracts have been finalised, the site is prepared and construction is progressing well. Upon completion the North Star plant will be the lowest cost steel plant in the US and its annual output will increase to \$3m tonnes pa.

In the first half of the 2020 financial year the US, Chinese, Indian and domestic volumes are trading well and in line with expectation. However, the ASEAN region volumes are softer due to their weaker macro-economic market.

Whilst key management personnel delivered well on most metrics, the safety target was not achieved as the time lost to less serious injuries and time lost to medically treated injuries increased from the prior year. The company is looking at ways to reduce this safety metric.

Most of the questions from shareholders were in regard to the company's approach to climate change, renewables, emissions and water. Chair John Bevan assured shareholders that the company was addressing these issues in a sustainable manner.

The three plants in Port Kembla NSW, Pacific Steel New Zealand and Blue Star Ohio are responsible for 93% of the company's emissions. Their strategy is to reduce their emissions by 1% each year until 2027. This will be equivalent to removing 360,000 cars off the road. As much as is practicable water is recycled across all sites. The Chair acknowledged that the company has yet to work out how to reduce emissions to zero by 2050.

Since 2017, \$1.3bn in share buybacks and dividends have been delivered to shareholders and the company is now targeting a capital structure of zero net debt.

As the company is carrying Australian tax losses and much of its income is derived overseas, in lieu of passing on franked dividends to shareholders, the company's policy is to distribute at least 50% of free cash flow to shareholders in the form of consistent dividends and buy-backs, reflecting no present franking availability. In light of the share price increase over the last three years shareholders did not seem to mind.

All resolutions passed with a 97% for vote or higher.