

Certification scheme interest building

By Steel Compliance Australia Manager, ALAN NIGHTINGALE

Steelwork Compliance Australia (SCA) continues to engage with fabricators looking to gain certification to the ASI National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme (NSSCS).

To date, 11 companies have achieved certification to the scheme with another four undertaking additional business improvement activities before certification will be provided.

Eight fabricators are currently completing the Stage 1 Audit documentation. Another 29 have held discussions with the SCA. Of these it is anticipated that about half will progress through to the Audit phase in the shorter term.

SCA has also fielded two initial enquiries from international businesses out of Korea and Thailand. It is not anticipated these companies will formally engage with the Scheme as yet.

To date the greatest take up has been in Queensland and Victoria.

North Queensland companies, Cairns Steel Fabricators and Thomas Steel Fabrications (Townsville) completed the Stage 2 audit process during April, as did Hutchins Bros Engineering (Narrandera), Steel Fabrications Australia and PPW Steel Fabrication & Welding (both out of Brisbane) and Stilcon Holdings (Melbourne).

Of the eight companies working through the Stage 1 Audit process we have businesses from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Tasmania and regional areas including Wodonga represented.

We have had our initial commitments from fabricators in Adelaide and Perth. The SCA expects to undertake Stage 2 site audits in these locations in the next four to eight weeks and would be happy to hear from other fabricators in those locations to aggregate the audit process.

The SCA took the opportunity to visit Canberra and a number of ASI fabricator members in the area during April to meet face-to-face and to provide an overview of the Scheme.

During the latest period, the ASI and SCA have provided presentations and held discussions with a wide range of organisations including the Asset Standards Authority, AusRoads, Brisbane City Council, Engineers Australia, Housing Industry Association, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, South Australian Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Transport for NSW and Western Australian Department of Commerce.

The ASI and SCA have also held discussions with representatives of the Northwest Rapid Transit Infrastructure Joint Venture (NRT IJV) with regard to the fabrication of steelwork for the Northwest Rail Link Project in NSW. The NRT IJV has developed a strategy to engage the steel industry via the ASI (and Industry Capability Network as per government request) initially via an Expression of Interest process.

Over recent months, articles on the NSSCS have been run in trade magazines, including *Engineers Australia*, *Build Australia* and those published for Master Builders Associations in a number of States.

The SCA and ASI will be presenting to the Wollongong branch of Engineers Australia in early July and the SCA will take the time to have one-on-one discussions with fabricators in the region.



(L to R) Steel Compliance Australia Manager, **Alan Nightingale** presents Structural Challenge Operations Manager, **Nick Mavrikos** with the company's certification to CC2 in the boardroom of its new purpose-built fabrication facility in Dandenong South.

Meetings have also been held with a number of engineering consultancies and Tier One and Two builders during the past two months. The SCA encourages builders and engineers to make contact with us in regard to the subcontracting of fabrication activities on their projects and is happy to support builders to engage with fabricators on their preferred supplier list with a view toward assessing their conformity to the Structural Steel Fabrication and Erection Code of Practice (or otherwise). There is usually sufficient time for this process to be undertaken during the builder's tender phase, if not completed beforehand. This document is available for download via the ASI Bookshop (<http://steel.org.au/bookshop>).

The Code of Practice is the precursor to a new Australian Standard AS5131. This document is currently being reviewed by the standards committee and will shortly be available for general public commentary. We encourage all fabricators and stakeholders to take the opportunity to review and provide comment on this new Standard. There have been a number of articles in the last few months around non-compliant product in construction including electrical cable, glass and building cladding.

A number of States are looking at ways to better ensure compliance of product used in construction and the ASI has made representations to the Queensland and WA Governments who are in turn engaging with the Federal Government on these matters.

Further information can be found at the SCA website www.steelworkcompliance.com