

The Treasurer
Hon Joe Hockey
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Cc Steel Industry Unions

Dear Treasurer,



South Coast Labour Council
Fred Moore House
Lowden Square
Wollongong NSW 2500

Re: Urgent Request for the Imposition of Emergency Safeguards To Defend the Australian Steel Industry

I write on behalf the South Coast Labour Council following a mass meeting of Port Kembla Steel workers and their union representatives in Wollongong this morning to request urgent action on your part as The Treasurer in relation to the steel industry crisis. We call on you to impose emergency safeguards by way of temporary targeted import Tariffs on specified steel products immediately to restrict the importation of dumped sub-cost steel product into Australia. Sub-cost dumping is widely acknowledged as the principal cause of the crisis in the international steel industry and one which threatens the survival of steel making altogether in Australia.

As you are aware, you have the power to act immediately with this course of action, which we acknowledge would normally be followed by an inquiry as to the effects of the dumped steel on our industry and the effects of the imposition of the emergency safeguards. As you are also aware these measures have been triggered all over the world from the United States, India, Europe and South Africa. We believe that our steel industry is worth defending as well.

We are not suggesting that the imposition of these emergency safeguards will alone be sufficient to deal with the crisis in our steel industry but we do assert strongly that they are a necessary part of a broader strategy to ensure its survival. It is clear that our workers, their families and the Illawarra community as a whole will shoulder much of the pain of the job losses that result from cost cutting at BlueScope Steel as they attempt to save \$200m from their Port Kembla operations. At the very least we must ensure that these sacrifices are not made in vain and that the Federal Government ensures that it deploys every available weapon in its arsenal to defend our industries from illegal dumping and ensures that there is a level playing field.

If you don't act now as Government's around the world have already done, Australia will have the dubious honour of being the only steelmaking country in the world to have surrendered our steel industry and our market to illegal dumping without having fired a shot.

Thank you for considering this urgent request and we look forward to your advice as to the process and options available in addressing this matter.

Sincerely

Arthur Rorris
Secretary
South Coast Labour Council