**Gladys Berejiklian**
Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

**Anthony Roberts**
Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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# NSW GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS ILLAWARRA STEELWORKERS

The NSW Government will provide payroll tax relief to BlueScope Steel to help secure its Port Kembla operations – supporting the local steel industry and its workers, NSW Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian has announced.

Ms Berejiklian said the targeted assistance package provides a structured deferral of payroll tax of up to $60 million over three years to BlueScope through a defined payment schedule.

“These measures will help BlueScope maintain its Port Kembla operations amid tough global business conditions,” Ms Berejiklian said. “We have always said the NSW Government is committed to playing a strong role in securing the future of the Illawarra and this package does just that.

“The situation faced by BlueScope in the Illawarra is unique, and that's why the Government has chosen to provide this deferral to support the continued operation of the steelworks.

“We have seen management, the workers and the unions all doing their bit in working to maintain the steelworks at Port Kembla and this payroll tax deferral is the Government doing what it can to assist.”

After the payroll tax deferral period, BlueScope will make payments totalling the full deferment amount to the State in increments over ten years from 2020 to 2029 on top of the normal payroll tax payments.

Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, Anthony Roberts, said the NSW Government will work with the Commonwealth and other stakeholders to support the workers affected by BlueScope’s restructure, while continuing to drive jobs growth across the region.

“The Illawarra has undergone extensive change when it comes to its traditional drivers of employment, but it continues to have tremendous potential,” Mr Roberts said. “The region recorded jobs growth of 12,400 in the 12 months to September 2015, one of the best performing regions in NSW.

“The Illawarra is transitioning towards new growth employment sectors such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT), health, advanced manufacturing, education and like all regions, will be eligible for Jobs for NSW funding.”

Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast Gareth Ward, who has been a strong advocate for the local community on this issue, welcomed the news.

"My mum and dad first met at the steelworks in 1973 – like so many Illawarra families, this issue runs deep for us,” Mr Ward said.

"This has been a challenging time for our community, but we are always strongest when we are focused and united. I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in today's announcement.”

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