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BHP STEEL CEO ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF WORLD'S PEAK STEEL ORGANISATION

Australian steel executive Kirby Adams has been elected Chairman of the International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI) at its Annual General Meeting in Chicago, USA.

Mr Adams is Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BHP Steel, which proposes to change its name to BlueScope Steel Limited next month.

Mr Adams has been a member of the Executive Committee of the IISI since 2000. His term as Chairman of the IISI will run for a period of twelve months.

The Vice-Chairmen of the IISI, also elected at the Chicago meeting, are Mr Guy Dollé, Chief Executive Officer of the Europe-based steel company Arcelor, and Mr Akio Mimura, Representative Director and Executive Vice President of Nippon Steel Corporation of Japan.

Mr Adams is the first Australian executive to be appointed to the position of IISI Chairman since Mr Brian Loton, then Managing Director of The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, in 1991.

Chairman of BHP Steel, Mr Graham Kraehe, said: "Kirby's election as IISI Chairman reflects the strong regard in which he is held by his international peers, and the significant contribution he has made in the global steel arena in the three and a half years he has been CEO of BHP Steel.

"In being elected to this position at the age of 47, Kirby will be the youngest Chairman of IISI in the organisation's 36 year history."

The IISI is based in Brussels, Belgium. Its members include the world's leading steel producers.

About BHP Steel Limited (ASX: BSL)

BHP Steel is the leading steel producer in Australia and New Zealand, supplying a large percentage of the flat steel products sold in these markets. The Company's principal customers are in the building and construction, automotive, packaging and general manufacturing industries. The Company's steelworks at Port Kembla is Australia's largest and one of the world's lowest cost producers of hot rolled coil. Steel rolling, coating and painting plants are located in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and the Company has a network of rollforming facilities across the Asia Pacific region that is unmatched by any other steel company. BHP Steel also has a 50 per cent interest in North Star BHP Steel – a steel mini-mill in Delta, Ohio, USA. **For further information about BHP Steel Limited:** www.bhpsteel.com

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