



Adelaide-built with Australian steel

AUSSIE STRONG: BlueScope Steel will deliver more than 1500 tonnes of steel plate to frigates builder ASC Shipbuilding.

AUSTRALIAN steel will be used during the prototyping phase of the \$35 billion future frigates program following a \$2.6 million contract with supplier BlueScope Steel.

The contract will see BlueScope deliver more than 1500 tonnes of steel plate to frigates builder ASC Shipbuilding.

The prototyping phase will

start at the end of this year, with five representative ship blocks to be built at the Osborne shipyard.

ASC Shipbuilding managing director Craig Lockhart said the deal with BlueScope was the first of a number of contracts to be awarded to Australian businesses in the lead up to prototyping.

"This is a significant milestone and in awarding this contract to BlueScope Steel AIS, we are confident that we have selected the company with the best capability while meeting our commitments to supporting Australian businesses and maximising Australian industry capability," he said.

"During the prototyping

phase we expect to spend 90 per cent of the value of the work required to construct the test blocks in Australia, and I hope today's contract signing is the start of a long-term relationship with BlueScope Steel AIS."

During prototyping, the processes, systems, tools, facilities and workforce will be test-

ed and refined before construction commences on the first frigate in 2022.

ASC Shipbuilding has released 27 work packages to the Australian market as part of the prototyping phase, and to date has received 388 expressions of interest in those work packages. Twenty-two requests for quotes have been issued.