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Murray SME first to be certified in SA to supply steelwork for more complex projects

Family-owned Bowhill Engineering based in the south-east region South Australia along the Murray River has become the first steel fabrication business in South Australia to be certified to the third Construction Category (CC3) under the new National Structural Steelwork Certification Scheme (NSSCS).

The company is currently one of only two steel fabricators in Australia certified to CC3.

Fabricators are certified to one of three Construction Categories defined in AS/NZS 5131 with CC3 being the highest level of certification currently provided for contributing to more complex, higher risk structures like bridges, those designed for fatigue actions or as specifically required in authority construction specifications.

Manager of Steel Compliance Australia (SCA) who independently audited the company, **Alan Nightingale** said the business understands the need for a documented quality management system (QMS) that also adequately supports the requirements of AS/NZS 5131 and other standards it is certified to.

“Bowhill Engineering has a real interest in developing and improving its business and manufacturing processes and in doing so, providing surety to customers on its ability to deliver a broader range of quality steel fabrication,” he said.

The business has been one of the early adopters of the NSSCS, originally being certified to the more common CC2 classification and in the 12 months since, made the changes to the business to cover the requirements to meet the CC3 level.

This included improvements to its QMS, updating all welding procedures to bring them into line with the AS 1554 standard, formalising arrangements for welding supervision and welding inspection and introducing additional activities in regard to material traceability.

“Our commitment to SCA CC3 accreditation was motivated by the alignment with quality outcomes as specialist fabricators of heavy and complex structural steel,” Bowhill Engineering Chief Financial Officer, **Jodie Hawkes** said.

“What this process has done is automatically drive down risk for all stakeholders, particularly the end client.

“Over recent years, our entire industry has been impacted by increased sourcing of often significantly cheaper fabricated steel from overseas creating the very real and growing risk of non-conforming product being used in Australia becoming almost the ‘norm’.”

The business took advantage of recently announced funding from the South Australian Government towards the cost of undergoing certification to successfully attain CC3.

“Our industry needed some firm leadership to combat these challenging circumstances and this came via our State Government through the Office of Industry Advocate in conjunction with the technical prowess of our industry body, the Australian Steel Institute.”

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT....

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