

GALVANIZING: DURABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY



Engineers, asset owners and operators have long been at the forefront in demanding that their designs be economical, durable and environmentally responsible. To these important criteria has also recently been added the idea of sustainability. The implementation of such economical, durable and environmentally responsible designs requires sustainable materials that are accessible, simple to apply and retain their protective integrity over a long period of time. After-fabrication hot dip galvanizing has been used to protect steel for over 170 years. During this time, it has been used to protect almost every type of steel structure and fabrication used in the built environment and infrastructure industries.

The Galvanizers Association of Australia and its members believe that sustainability should be a major consideration of all industries and that their performance should be measured in these terms. Galvanizing has a long, proud and successful track record and this is expanding due to the ease of use of galvanized steel and the technical support available through the Association.

It has been acknowledged in Australia and around the world that sustainability needs to be an integral factor in the process of design and construction, a "core function" in the modern parlance. However, sustainability must be financially viable if it is to be embraced by business. It is only when businesses and projects are both profitable and sustainable that their true value to the community is realised.

"Sustainability" means meeting our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This can be applied to businesses to mean that the structures that are put in place today should be cost effective, relatively maintenance free and not place a financial burden on their future operations.

After-fabrication hot dip galvanizing has long been recognized as providing superior corrosion protection in most conditions. It is also now being recognized as an environmentally friendly corrosion protection technology based on the measures of sustainability, durability and life cycle assessment. Galvanized steel has an inherent environmental advantage in that its two components, steel and zinc, are recyclable. Not content in the fact that after-fabrication hot dip galvanizing is superior to other corrosion protection technologies, the Australian galvanizing industry has continued to invest in its process to ensure that a sustainable corrosion protection system is produced in an equally sustainable manner.

The Association's technical staff are constantly working on monitoring and developing case studies that give specifiers reliable information on the performance of galvanized steel in their particular applications. All members of the Galvanizers Association of Australia have access to their technical staff, technical materials and case studies from Australia and around the world. If you need further information or advice on any aspect of hot dip galvanizing or corrosion protection, then please contact our technical staff for assistance.

galvanizers
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
ABN 60 004 579 828

We provide information, publications and assistance on all aspects of design, performance and applications of hot dip galvanizing.
124 Exhibition Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Telephone 03 9654 1266 Facsimile 03 9654 1136
Email gaa@gaa.com.au Web page www.gaa.com.au