

CASE STUDY

Tropical Fabrication



CATEGORY:

Engineering Construction

LOCATION:

Townsville, Queensland

PRODUCT:

Rectangular hollow section
Coil plate steel

Tropical Fabrication finds its light beams not too heavy

Coming from humble beginnings in the mid 1960s servicing the home building sector, over the past 50 years Tropical Fabrications has evolved into one of the most respected steel fabricators in Queensland.

Based in Townsville, Tropical Fabrications manufactures light/medium steelwork, hold down bolts, house columns, house beams, security screens and gates, decorative wrought iron, stair stringers, handrails along with a proprietary Industrial Light Beam (ILB), which they have the license to manufacture and distribute. The ILB is a revolutionary system that was conceived in the town of Orange NSW and is a very cost-efficient structural beam used on wide spans in a variety of commercial sheds and warehouse builds.

In fact, the use of the ILB system can significantly reduce structural steel costs by as much as 30 per cent on building projects, according to some estimates.

Luke Zatta, Tropical Fabrications' estimator said: "We build a variety of commercial style structures starting from the average farm shed to warehouses of 8000 square metres and upwards."

“*BlueScope Distribution is a great company to deal with and one that provides the right quality at the right price, and that also gives us technical and other support if and when we need it.*”

”

“When it comes to our ILB, it offers dramatically reduced weight and increased strength in lateral twisting and torsional bending, with typically half the weight of its corresponding traditional Universal Beam and is made primarily from RHS and Coil Steel Plate that we buy from BlueScope Distribution.”

“It’s a hollow-section beam that is custom made for the application, ranging in section depths of 300mm to 1.5m and made from RHS and coil plate, that can have a clear span up to 80m,” said Luke.

“This ILB is fabricated to AS4100 and is designed to be a lighter and stronger alternative to the much heavier Universal Beams which are traditionally used in warehouse and shed construction.”

“In terms of the processing of the RHS and Coil Plate, BlueScope Distribution does most of the processing for us in-house, which mainly consists of cutting, drilling and plate cutting.”

As for deliveries, Luke said that BlueScope Distribution has provided anything from “a two-day turnaround, all the way up to five-day turnarounds, depending on the size of the order.”

“BlueScope Distribution is a great company to deal with and one that provides the right quality at the right price, and that also gives us technical and other support if and when we need it.”

BlueScope Distribution Account Manager Matt Spillane said that the relationship between BlueScope Distribution and Tropical Fabrications is both a long-term one and one that is based on the reality that only BlueScope Distribution can provide Australian-made steel at the proper quality and in a delivery configuration that benefits the steel fabricator.

“The relationship between BlueScope Distribution and Tropical Fabrications has always been one of mutual respect, and after working together for the past 10 years, we have nurtured a

symbiotic partnership between our two companies.”

“Working with BlueScope Distribution all these years has meant that we have been able to take advantage of the superior quality of Australian-made steel and also a range of specific production and delivery configurations designed to benefit both our needs and our competitive pricing structure,” said Luke from Tropical Fabrications.

“At the end of the day, we are a metal fabrication company that works in a part of the market that is highly competitive, and having the backup and ongoing support of a company like BlueScope Distribution helps us immensely.”

More information at www.tropicalfabrications.com.au



Phone: 13 72 82

www.bluescopedistribution.com.au

This case study has been prepared for information purposes only. BlueScope makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of the information contained in this document. You must make your own assessment of the information contained in this document and rely on it wholly at your own risk. Published by BlueScope Steel Limited. © are registered trade marks of BlueScope Steel Limited. ™ are trade marks of BlueScope Steel Limited. © 2015 BlueScope Steel Limited ABN 16 000 011 058.


**BLUESCOPE
DISTRIBUTION**