

## Lithgow Blast Furnace

location Blast Furnace Park, off Inch Street, Lithgow, New South Wales.  
owner Council of the City of Greater Lithgow

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### the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**  
location On the end of a brick wall, being part of the ruins, in Blast Furnace Park, Lithgow.

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In 1875 a blast furnace was erected at Lithgow to produce pig iron. However, operations became unprofitable and the furnace was pulled down in 1882.

William Sandford leased the works in 1886 and made a profitable business re-rolling rails for mining purposes and re-heating and rolling scrap iron.

Confident that pig iron could be made profitably at Lithgow, Sandford formed his business into a company and gained a contract with the New South Wales Government for the supply of iron and steel. The company erected a modern blast furnace and steel furnaces, made additions to the rolling mills, and cast its first pig iron in April 1907. About 500 to 700 tons of good quality pig iron were produced weekly.

It was soon realised the company was under-capitalised and it was taken over by Messrs



Hoskins Ltd, including the contract with the Government. Hoskins upgraded and extended the works and amongst other things, produced steel rails and structural steel.

A large quantity of the pig iron went into the cast iron pipes manufactured at Hoskins' pipe-making works at Rhodes and Ultimo.



*William Sandford*

### plaque text

#### **Lithgow Blast Furnace**

This is the site of the blast furnace and auxiliary plant erected by William Sandford in 1906–7 and extended by the Hoskins Company in 1913. It served the Lithgow iron and steel industry until 1928, was the first continuously economic producer of Australian steel and made possible the establishment of other steel producing centres at Newcastle and Port Kembla.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia, 1992.