

ASBESTOS

**89 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE
PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

TELEGRAPHIC & CABLE ADDRESS:
"BLUEASBESTOS" PERT
G.P.O. BOX NO. L9C
TELEPHONES BA 525
B 223

22nd April, 1958.

Dear Sir,

VISITORS: We have been advised by the L.C.L. Secretary that Mr. and Mrs. Menzies and party will be touring the North West during May. At the moment the itinerary is as follows :

Arrive Wittenoom 5.30 p.m. on May, 17th.
Civic Reception by Road Board - 8 p.m.
Visit mine and mill - 8.30 a.m. Sunday, 18th.
Leave Wittenoom - 11.00 a.m. Sunday, 18th.

We are trying to have the time at Wittenoom extended slightly.

We understand that accompanying the Prime Minister there will be representatives from most of the leading Australian newspapers, A.B.C., A.B.C. Television and Fox Movietone and, possibly, others. It is assumed that you do not wish to place any limitations on the activities of these people. Information will, of course, be limited to that usually given.

It is suggested that we give the Prime Minister a short resumé of the main features concerning our project and we submit the attached sheet for your consideration. However, The C.S.R. Co. Ltd. publicity officer may have other suggestions. In addition, a graph could be attached showing production, value and export earnings for the last three years.

We have been asked to treat this matter as confidential until it is made public in the press.

Yours faithfully,

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Injury Cases: Asbestos and
copied to the following:

Director.

AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LTD.

ESTABLISHED - 1943 with full approval and support of
Commonwealth and W.A. Governments.

Capital Spent - A.B.A. - 1943 to 1956 ... £2,050,000 ✓
do. Government - 1943 to 1956 ... £400,000 a

making f
the no sum in
making this up
we have avoided
over the 7 days
in 1958
to the 1st of June
continue to avoid
~~Operating Loss - 1943 to 1956 ... £791,086 ✓~~
~~Accumulated Loss as at 30/6/57 ... £662,618 ✓~~
Pay Roll Tax paid to date ... £130,000 a

Production - year 1956 - 8,000-tons, valued at £800,000. ✓
" " 1957 - 12,500 " " £1,200,000. ✓
" " 1958 (Est.) 16,000-tons " £1,580,000. ✓

Tonnage Exported during 1956 8,000-tons " £800,000. ✓
do. 1957 11,500 " " £1,100,000. ✓
" to be exported 1958 12,500 " " £1,200,000. ✓
" to be used
locally, 1958 2,600 " " £260,000.

Principal markets - America - 7,000-tons, Italy - 3,000-tons
Japan - 1,500-tons. *Australia 2,000 "*
Other Markets - India, Spain, Portugal, Singapore,
Thailand, France, Germany, England,
Argentina, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland
Czecho-Slovakia and Poland.

Freight rate per ton Wittenoom/Fremantle - £14.
Equivalent freights paid by African competitors from
their mines to their port of distribution - £5.

Main use for our asbestos - Asbestos Cement Pressure Pipe,
Asbestos Cement Sheets,
Insulation and Fireproofing.

Number of people directly employed at Wittenoom - 330.
Est. number of employees in 1959 - 380 to 400
Number of people in Wittenoom now 1000 approx

Average earnings per employee - £1,600 p.a. (to be checked

Main Economic Disabilities - High Freights, high wages, heavy
Pay Roll Tax because of higher wages paid, District
Allowances and fare concessions to employees.

Recommended forms of assistance required to
reduce costs of production and to make the industry competitive
on a long term basis :-

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- (a) Freight Subsidies
- (b) Substantial increases in Income Tax Zone Allowances.
- (c) Abolition of Pay Roll Tax.
- (d) Improvements to port at Port Hedland to enable overseas ships to call and so avoid freight costs to Fremantle on at least some of our production.

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