

PRIVATE NO. 46

SYDNEY.

13th August, 1946.

The Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
WITTENOOM.

Dear Sir,

PROPOSITION. A decision on the future development of Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd., has now been reached and in order that you may be fully informed as to the steps which are proposed with a view to setting the blue asbestos industry on a sound basis, Mr. Tucker will forward to you for perusal and return, a copy of C.S.A. Co. Ltd. Private Letter No. 2 to their Perth Manager, which sets out in full the proposed procedure. In addition, we are now enclosing for your private file a copy of notes dated 16th, 13th and 10th July, which formed the basis for the proposals in the C.S.A. Co. Ltd. private letter referred to above.

Briefly, what is proposed is that, provided we get active support from the W.A. Government, we will proceed with a programme that will enable us to be in a position to mine 3,000 tons per annum at the end of two years. At the end of two years the position will be again reviewed and a decision will be made whether to proceed with the purchase of additional equipment required to produce 3,000 tons per annum.

However, a start cannot be made on the 3,000 tons per annum programme until we have ascertained whether our proposals are satisfactory to the W.A. Government. In the meantime, however, we will keep Wittenoom going keeping approximately the number of men you have employed at present and continuing the main drives and also any other developmental work which fits our bord and pillar layout, depending upon how many faces you can keep going with the labour permitted.

With regard to your suggestions for advance longwall mining and also for retreat long wall mining after having driven 12' x 7' tunnels through the hill, we do not propose to consider these further until we have obtained the services of a skilled mining man at Wittenoom. In the meantime any developmental work must conform to the bord and pillar system previously agreed upon.

We now intend to advertise for a Mine Manager and an Underground Manager for Wittenoom and will place advertisements in the Sydney Morning Herald and in the Chemical Engineering and Mining Review. A copy of the advertisement will be forwarded to you for your information when it appears.

Capital Expenditure. The capital expenditure that was outlined by you during my visit may be completed. This consisted of the following:-

Capital cost during three months ending 30/3/46

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Matl.</u>	
Bulldozer	3,000	2,300	C.S.R.
2nd Crusher	200	100	
Wodgina Power Unit	750	250	
Picking Conveyor at Mine	150	50	
Trucks	2,320	2,400	C.S.R.
Excavating space for tramlines	500	200	
Bin, Ross feeder and Conveyor etc.	2,700	2,100	C.S.R.
3rd Grade equipment etc.	700	340	(£200)
Settlement	500	240	
Engine Driver	150		
Major outstanding stores:-			
Mining Steel	1,000	1,000	
Wodgina Stores and engine spares	950	250	
	<u>211,250</u>	<u>211,250</u>	

Summary:-

Labour A.B.A.	Material A.B.A.	Material C.S.R.
2,320	4,320	7,100

We feel, however, that the picking arrangements are not ideal and consider that it will be necessary later to instal a large ore bin - possible 2,000 ton capacity - distant approximately 20 feet on the mine side of the mill and beneath the railway track. From this a picking conveyor

would lead to a new crusher (probably fed from a bin) and placed in line with the main crushing line but about 40 feet back from the existing jaw crushers. A conveyor would then lead from the new crusher into the existing No. 1 crusher. Picking would then take place on the uncrushed ore between main bin and the new crusher and on crushed ore between the new crusher and the existing No. 1 crusher. The road to the mine would then come from the general office end of the mill as proposed by you.

In the meantime, it appears to us that what must be done is to instal the bin and picking belt to No. 1 crusher as proposed by you. This allows picking on uncrushed ore to be carried out. From the plans we have it then appears possible to chute sideways from No. 1 crusher on to a conveyor leading away from the mill, this to be discharged on to a further elevating belt running back towards the mill and discharging into No. 2 jaw crusher. This latter elevating belt would serve as a picking belt for crushed ore and could later be the conveyor leading from the new crusher mentioned above to the existing No. 1 jaw crusher. The attached diagrammatic sketch illustrates the proposals above.

You may have worked out a satisfactory scheme for picking crushed ore since my visit and if so and you consider it better than that outlined above, please advise us. In any case we wish to see a plan of the whole of the proposed picking arrangement before you proceed with installation.

General Layout of Plant. We also take the opportunity to advise you that in view of the large capital that is now necessary for Wittenoom, we particularly wish to know in detail the arrangement of any proposed plant at Wittenoom to make sure we consider it suitable for later developments.

Yours faithfully,

W.D. 12

Managing Director.