FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

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AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS PTY. LIMITED

89 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE
PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE 21 8242
G.P.O. BOX No. L 901
TELEGRAPHIC & CABLE ADDRESS
"BLUEASBESTOS" PERTH

MINES & MILLS
WITTENOOM, W.A.

PRIVATE - P.211.
16th February, 1962.

The Managing Director,
Australian Blue Asbestos Pty. Ltd.,
SYDNEY.

Mr Blank ✓
Mr Brown (Chief Accountant)
Industrial Dept

Dear Sir,

WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUMS: ASBESTOSIS: We attach a copy of a letter received from the State Government Insurance Office dealing with their proposal to isolate the asbestos industry from other mining enterprises, for the purpose of imposing an increased premium rate.

This will almost certainly be to our disadvantage

As we see it, prior to the recent claims being lodged with the S.G.I.O. for asbestosis or some kindred disease, we, as a company had to meet a premium rate based on the accident rate of Kalgoorlie, which at the time was particularly high. You may recall that at that time lengthy consideration was given as to whether this company should carry its own insurance policy.

We should aim to try & keep the premium position it is, & improve working conditions if we can.

We would appreciate your comments.

Yours faithfully,

J. B. Trounson

General Superintendent.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
104690

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STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE
PERTH.

YOUR REF

COPY

The Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
WITTENOOM GORGE, W.A.

Dear Sir,

ASBESTOSIS

1. I think you are aware that the premium rates under the Workers' Compensation Act are fixed by the Premium Rates Committee usually during December in each year. Item 455, which refers to mining industrial disease only (principally pneumoconiosis in all its forms including silicosis and asbestosis) has a premium rate of 20/-% which figure has operated unchanged since 1. 1. 55.

2. During recent years I have corresponded with you concerning the increase in the incidence of industrial disease at your Mine. Concern has also been expressed by the Public Health Department and the Mines Department at the rapidity at which the disease progressed, and I am sure that these representations have resulted in your Company doing its utmost to reduce its incidence.

3. As I am the sole insurer for all mining risks in W.A. I watch all the statistics available to me in order that all employers may receive fair premium assessment insofar as that assessment is capable of being adjusted by me. Silicosis has always been rated at a flat figure throughout the State irrespective of the locality of the Mine, the depth of the working, or any other factor. This provides a satisfactory basis for all employers and there does not seem to be any need to depart from a flat rate in the future except in respect of mining of asbestos. It would seem at present that your claims cost is above average for gold mining and that future figures may prove the position to be even worse. I am watching the position closely and if the statistics justify it, as I think they will, I intend to approach the Premium Rates Committee for an increase in the rate of 20/-% as far as asbestos mining is concerned. If the experience of asbestos mining is considerably worse than that of gold mining industry to have to bear part of the abnormal cost, particularly as gold has to be sold at a fixed price. It appears that the correct action would be for asbestos mining industrial disease to be rated separately at an appropriate figure thus providing a fair rate for both the gold mining and the asbestos mining industries.

4. This information is forwarded to you now in order that you may know my intentions and to enable you to make any representations to me or elsewhere if you are so inclined. My data is incomplete and any action will be taken only when all factors have been considered. If you wish I will provide you with particulars of any data upon which my case will be based.

5. I am writing to you now to ensure that no unfair advantage is taken by me if an application is made as seems now to be probable. I emphasise that I have insufficient data at present and nothing will be done until I possess what I consider to be adequate evidence, and no approach will be made unless that evidence appears to me to justify my action. It will then rest with the Premium Rates Committee to determine the issue. No doubt you are aware that there is a representative of the employers, Mr. W.P. Mark, on that Committee. I have discussed this matter with the General Secretary of the Chamber of Mines, Kalgoorlie, of which Chamber you are a Member.

Yours faithfully,