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Mr J F Blackland
Mr I G Burgess
Mr A B Coates

WA Mesothelioma Case - Mr Maas

The Perth Manager, Mr C R Leith, rang 9 May 77 to say that he had been told that Mr Maas was proposing to bring a common law action (presumably against CSR) for damages arising out of his condition of mesothelioma.

The defence of the action will be handled by the State Government Insurance Office of WA who were ABA's workers compensation insurers and they will pay the damages eventually awarded. Mr Leith has contacted Mr Ken Bower, Claims Manager of SGIO and told him of Mr Maas' intention.

It will not be possible for CSR to interfere with the conduct of the case, this must be entirely in SGIO's hands. It is probable there will be no actual court hearing, that the matter will be settled out of court. However, in the event that the matter does go to court it may be worth considering to have CSR represented by a barrister. There could be allegations about CSR's practices and intentions that might need challenge from CSR's legal representative. If this is contemplated it would be necessary to notify SGIO that CSR would like to arrange for its barrister to have a watching brief and to seek their concurrence.

N & I
10 May 77