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EX. CC

[redacted]

PER AIRMAIL

No.283

PRIVATE.

31st May, 1951.

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

Dear Sir,

MANAGEMENT. Discussions at Wittenoom on 24th and 25th May. Enclosed are three copies of notes covering the discussions held at Wittenoom on 24th and 25th May, 1951.

Yours faithfully,

JE. 31

pro General Manager.

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NO 1161 OF 1987

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NO 1148 OF 1987

DISCUSSIONS AT WITTENOOM ON 24th AND 25th MAY, 1951.

PRESENT: Messrs. Powell, Broadhurst, Brown, Lake and Keegan.

STAFF:

1. Furniture for Houses. The furniture supplied with houses that are given free of rental is to be as follows:-

Bedrooms - Beds and mattresses as necessary, dressing table and wardrobe and one chair in the main bedroom. Other bedrooms, a small table and adequate hanging space.

Dining Room - Table, sideboard and six chairs.

Lounge Room - Settee, two steel armchairs or equivalent.

Kitchen - Refrigerator, kitchen table, two chairs and adequate cupboard space.

Note re refrigerator - Anybody who is buying a refrigerator and who may become entitled to a free refrigerator because of altered decision as to availability of free houses, may if so desired obtain a refund from the Company, if the refrigerator is in good order. If the householder prefers to own his own refrigerator, he can continue to purchase it and may then take it with him if and when transferred, if desired.

2. Furniture for American Technicians. Essential items over and above furniture as set out above may be obtained by an advance from the Company and we will purchase such goods back when they leave our employ at a reasonable valuation. An itemised list of the goods that we would be prepared to finance in this way is to be prepared and submitted by Mr. Broadhurst.

3. Staff Houses. An immediate start is to be made on the erection of the two staff houses in the upper settlement on the locations already pegged out. The expenditure for these houses has already been authorised.

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4. Wittenoom Club. It was considered to be inadvisable to continue indefinitely using the staff quarters as the club house for the Wittenoom Club, particularly as the club now wished to take steps to obtain a liquor license, and it was decided to investigate the possibility of using the old settlement store as a club house or, alternatively, to erect a new small building near the existing tennis court. Mr. Broadhurst is to prepare estimates, etc. for these alternati for further discussion.

5. Staff Generally. A number of other points were discussed such as what staff had free houses, proposed staff appointments, adjustments of salaries, etc. but these will b covered in a separate note.

6. American Technicians' Payment. It was agreed to hal the present contract tax rate deduction and it was considere that by so doing each technician except Crouse would then ha ample funds available to live on. In Crouse's case, at the Manager's discretion, he may repay his debt to us for travelling expenses over a longer period than the twelve months stipulated.

Detailed accounts and statements for each American technician are to be prepared at Wittenoom and a copy sent t Head Office in accordance with our P. No.227.

Mining:

1. The following information is required and is to be prepared by Mr. Lake and submitted for approval:-

(a) The time to reach 3,000 tons per annum steady producti (the estimated cost of production at this rate is £123 per short ton Fremantle).

(b) Total cost of development to the stage when steady production at the rate of 3,000 tons per annum can be maintained. (This assumes that development is maintai six months ahead of production).

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(c) An estimate of the operating loss involved in reaching the stage when 3,000 tons per annum is being mined, that is, during the time (a) above.

(d) As for (a), (b) and (c) above but for the rate of 6,000 tons per annum instead of 3,000 tons per annum (the estimated cost of production at 6,000 tons per annum is £100.3 per short ton Fremantle).

(e) The additional capital expenditure required for equipment for the above programme to the 3,000 tons rate and to the 6,000 tons rate. Special reference should be made in this list to the possible replacement of drilling machinery to enable Cobide steel to be used in place of standard steel.

2. For the immediate future, that is roughly the next five years, it is proposed to continue the northeastern development, as we are doing at present. In this development it is planned that stoping will take place on the top seam only, the lower seam workings being for transport only. A report on the future development of the mine, covering the period in advance of five years is to be submitted by Mr. Lui together with comments by Mr. Haagen.

3. Diesel Locos. The installation of scrubbers to take out the objectionable fumes which now affect the mens' eyes to be investigated and, if possible, such scrubbers to be fitted.

MILLING:

1. It was agreed to accept the flow sheet dated 6th [redacted] to work towards the general aim of putting the mill into good order and condition and to gradually achie the flow process as set out on this sheet. It was decided, however, that it would be desirable to instal a rotary drier to dry the fines passing into the Symons crusher.

2. An amended layout of ore storage and picking plant is to be prepared at the mine in accordance with the flow sheet.

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3. A layout for the installation of the Symons crusher, screen, etc. for handling the fines is to be prepared and the plant is then to be installed as soon as the Symons crusher is received from England.

4. It was decided to convert the secondary picking to waste picking instead of ore picking by putting an extra hopper under the existing ore conveyor so that waste may be picked into this hopper and so that a truck may be driven under the hopper to pick up this waste, the present ore conveyor to be shortened in order to feed into the existing ore bin. No further work on this is to be done until items 2 and 3 have been attended to.

5. It was agreed to adopt the modifications to the present mill as shown on Plan MED.5196 and make the following alterations:-

(a) A new conveyor to be installed to receive the overside from No. 4 screen, the overside from the lower deck of No. 3 screen, the overside from No. 7 screen and the overside from No. 8 screen (a new screen to act as a spare cleaning screen for No. 4 when capacity requires it) and feed direct to No. 3 rolls.

(b) Add a new cleaning screen - No. 9 - to clean fibre from Nos. 5 and 6 screens which are to be put in parallel.

(c) Extend No. 11 conveyor which would take throughs from screens Nos. 3, 4, 7 and 8 and feed to new hammer mills preceding Nos. 5 and 6 screens.

(d) Instal two hammer mills above Nos. 5 and 6 screens. These screens to be put in parallel.

(e) Instal a hammer mill or other fiberiser above the existing No. 7 cleaning screen.

6. Proceed as rapidly as possible with the completion of the dust collecting system as already generally planned, put the sock collectors into use and also put the second Werman collector now at the barracks storage area into use. Alter some dust collecting hoods to avoid the difficulty now

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experienced in sucking fibre into the dust collecting syster

7. It was decided that, in order to keep the mill capacity ahead of the possible mine programme, it was desirable to instale additional standard equipment so that this would be available when required. Sydney Office would prepare a list of such equipment and will arrange for this material to be approved and ordered.

POWER HOUSE

1. It was decided that the new power house when complet would consist of the following:-

3 new compressors (already installed)

1 2,000 cubic ft. compressor ex the old power house.

1 500 cubic ft. Diesel compressor ex the old power house.

3 Crossley engine generator sets (one already instal the other two to come from England).

1 5 cylinder 275 h.p. Ruston ex the old power house. Note - the old 7 cylinder Ruston ex the old power house may later go to the township but no action to be taken in this regard at present other than t plan generally where it may go.

TOWNSHIP BUILDINGS

It was agreed to be desirable to lease a butchery, bakery and cafe on the following conditions rather than to attempt to keep them ourselves:

Butchery - No charges to be made for the building and equipment but we are to set the price to him from us for bulk meat so that we get sufficient return to cover reasonable charges for the building and equipment, etc. The butcher will be allowed a margin of 3d. per lb. for resale over a above our price to him. The total price of meat will the still be below that allowed by the Prices Commissioner. I will continue to keep on behalf of the butcher the credit accounts.

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Bakery - A charge of £4 per week to be made for rental of the building and equipment. The baker is to buy his own wood and is to buy his stores through us. The price of bread is to be set at the maximum allowed by the Prices Commission. The baker is to keep his own accounts.

The purchase of a dough-mixer for the baker is to be investigated and, if subsequently approved and purchased, the rental should then be increased to £5 per week.

Cafe - A rental of £5 per week to be charged for the cafe and equipment and we will supply all building space and all equipment necessary. A cafe operator is to purchase his own power and water and is to purchase all goods as far as possible through the Company's store.

TOWNSHIP CLUB PREMISES:

These premises are to be let to Paul Tangney for £5 per week. Tangney is to purchase his own power and water and is also to obtain as far as possible all stores through the Company.

ROADS:

Whilst the Roads Board is sealing the remainder of the road from the town to the mine we should investigate the possibility of having the roads in front of the staff houses seal also possibly the road to the barracks dump, etc. A maximum of £500 to be spent on roads in this connection.

MINERS' PAY:

A bonus of 10% of gross earnings (less fractuer) to be paid to each machine miner and to each bogger who works all available shifts per fortnight.

TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL:

An effort is to be made to expedite the construction of the hospital.

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ELECTRICITY CHARGES

The proposed electricity agreement is to be expedited in order to enable the electricity charges already decided upon to be made in the town.

TOWNSHIP COMMON

The scheme for a township common is to be proceeded with.

MIGRANTS

It was decided that smaller amounts than stipulated in the contract may be deducted at the Manager's discretion so that the migrant has enough to live on at Wittenoom. As the migrant's earnings increase, deductions can be increased up to a maximum of the full contract deduction, namely £4 per week.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

A letter is to be sent from the Sydney Office to the Ministry of National Development outlining matters which that Ministry could attend to in order to assist the position at Wittenoom and the project generally. A draft letter from Wittenoom to Sydney is to be submitted before 2nd June, this draft to include all matters which the Manager at Wittenoom thinks would assist the town or the project.

CORRESPONDENCE

Private letters to be used only for private matters. Standard headings to be used for all correspondence to facilitate indexing. An up-to-date list of headings in current use to be sent to Wittenoom from the Sydney Office. Such a list is attached to these notes.

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