FURTHER INFORMATION ON QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

(refer earlier note of 7.7.74)

[redacted]

Q. When did my wife and I go to Wittenoom? Was the extractor plant then operating?

A. Letter P No. 277 11.10.1965 indicates that the Board of Directors including Sir John Dunlop visited Wittenoom in October 1965. The extractor plant was operating at that time.

Q. Did McNulty inform us of the death of a former employee from mesothelioma in 1960 (did he explain mesothelioma to the inquest and did he send us a copy of the Medical Journal)?

A. We have not been able to locate correspondence from McNulty covering a copy of his article in Med. J. Aust. 1962, 2, 953. (a copy of this is attached).
We did locate a letter P S26 24.6.1960 from the Manager, A.B.A. Wittenoom to the Managing Director A.B.A. Sydney sending two copies of an extract from the British Medical Journal (copy attached). We also located in A.B.A. files correspondence between McNulty and various overseas experts relating to the use of asbestos tailings in school playgrounds and road construction. These were dated November 1965 (copies are attached).
In summary there is much evidence we can muster to show that it was not until 1965, after the New York Academy of Science Meeting, that the possibility of mesothelioma being a problem at Wittenoom began to be appreciated.

Q. Was there a board of review at Wittenoom in 1959? What did it say?

A. There was a board of review at this time which found against the ad payment to some workers. An outline of this is contained in the P ... dated 16.12.1959 (copy attached).

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
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Q. Did Mr. Boyland threaten to close the mine?

A. There is correspondence between June 1961 and July 1962 which clearly indicates that Mr. Boyland of the Mines Department was being very critical of dust conditions in the mill. There was a threat (letter P No. 164 30.11.1964) that Mr. Boyland may serve a notice that the Mine or Mill is unsafe. In December 1961 the local Mines Inspector set down a restriction on throughput in an effort to improve conditions.
In letter P 16A 25.7.1962 the Manager A.B.A. Wittenoom writing to The The General Superintendent Perth stated,
"We are rather tired of his (Mr. Boyland's) constant threat to initiate prosecutions. This is being done (according to him) to force the Company into carrying out every instruction. We would suggest that this constant threat be investigated"...
The letter went on to say ...
"We do not stop in our efforts to control and collect dust in the mill and we have men constantly on ventilation underground. It is not easy to comply with every request the Inspectors make, but we at least do our best to carry out their wishes".

Q. What do the minutes say?

A. A search of directors and general meeting minutes of A.B.A. show no comments on dust hazards.