

EXTRACT FROM MINES FILE NO. 11/53:

MA 1 (11)

Inspections in the North West by District Inspector
Mines, Boyland J.

16.7.53.

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AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS - WITTENOOM - 29.4.1953

223 men are now on the payroll and added to this is a staff numbering 45.

The set back in development, occasioned by the discovery of a large area of dead fibre, has not yet been fully rectified, but development faces are extending rapidly and progress will soon be again at normal figures.

During March 340.65 short tons of Fibre were produced. 10175 tons of ore were milled and this result shows a higher value and better blending of grade. Nos. 1 and 2 grade fibres are now hand picked and the remainder of the fibre is classed as Grade 3.

Production now is approximately	3%	Grade 1
	6%	Grade 2
	93%	Grade 3

Hammer mills have been taken from the circuit and a symmes crusher installed. Mill extensions and alterations are well under way. Dust extractors and elevators are operating extremely well and the dust nuisance in the mill is practically nil.

A water shortage was causing concern.

It has been found necessary to improve the grade of ore milled and with this in view, preparations are being made to commence work in Colonial gorge, an off shoot of Western Gorge. It is hoped that mining can commence in this locality within four or five months. A roadway 3020 feet long and of grade 1 in 10, is being bulldozed to the crocidolite exposures where the ore body shows 4 inches of fibre. It is intended to transport ore from these workings, by motor trucks to the mill. The workings from Colonial gorge will not advance towards the present workings, in fact they will make an independent mine.

mk
6.8.53

Noted by 7/8/53
GMR