MP1527

AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION

WESTRALIAN BRANCH——MINING DIVISION

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DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
MINING
C. T. OLIVER,
WORKERS' HALL, BOULDER
TELEPHONE 268
P.O. BOX 10

BOULDER, 19th April, 1943.
W.A.

Mr. J. Foxall,
State Mining Engineer,
Mines Department,
PERTH.

Dear Sir,

I am requested by the members of my Union employed by the Australian Blue Asbestos at Wittenoom Gorge to bring the following matters to your notice.

1. Objection is taken to a diesel locomotive being worked underground in haulage operations. The opinion of my members is that the air is sufficiently vitiated by pollution with fumes from the exhaust as to menace their health.

2. The process of extracting asbestos from the quartzite rock is a dry process which is the cause of excessive dust. No adequate provision has been made by the management to effectively control the dust in the treatment plant. The result is that heavy clouds of dust are drifting through the plant, including the engine room, fitting shop and offices, in fact the whole atmosphere in the vicinity of the treatment plant, when in operation, is dust laden. There can be no doubt that employees occupied in the process are exposed to serious danger from a health point of view.

3. Strong exception is taken to men being engaged in Perth for employment at Wittenoom Gorge on the authority of a Provisional Certificate Form No. 13. A worker engaged under these circumstances has no protection under the Third Schedule of the Workers' Compensation Act, nor is he protected by the Mine Workers' Relief Act.

Facilities are available at the Perth Public Hospital for X-Rays to be taken and records kept which give the worker complete protection under the Acts. We feel that these facilities should be

Produced in the matter of
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Abrams Lead & copied to
Richard F. Scruggs.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WV-03890

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availed of by the employer when engaging labour, and the practice of allowing the worker to proceed to employment at Wittenoom Gorge on the authority of a Provisional Certificate discontinued.

At the date of my visit to Wittenoom Gorge a total of 117 persons were employed, 57 on the authority of Provisional Tickets.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY A. W. U.
Mining Division

Sml.
26.4.48

21.4.48

RO. Please attach file containing Inspector Lloyd's recent report on Wittenoom Gorge.

6/5/48

see P127 File 1009/47

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