

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1948

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter RE Workers' Union Complaint to
Perth Mining Dept RE Asbestos Workers without Access to Workers'
Comp

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AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION
WESTRALIAN BRANCH—MINING DIVISION



C. GOLDING,
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DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
MINING
C. T. OLIVER,
WORKERS' HALL, BOULDER
TELEPHONE 266
P.O. BOX 10

BOULDER, 29th April, 1948.
W.A.

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

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of the 19th instant relative to conditions at Australian Blue Asbestos Wittenoom Gorge, I have to advise that a report on the said conditions has been given to the Management of my Union, and I am now directed to urge on you the immediate necessity of an inspection, by a competent officer of your Department.

We are aware that an inspection was made by District Inspector Lloyd in January of this year, but our information is that the Mill was under repair during the Inspector's visit for which reason dust counts could not be taken. However, I suggest it is unnecessary to have the Mill in operation to have a proper appreciation of the amount of dust created during milling operations - everything in the vicinity of the Mill is laden with a thick covering of dust.

A large power unit failed because fine asbestos fibre was breathed into the engine and blocked the oil screen. I witnessed this and quote the incident merely to emphasise the danger employees of the Company are subjected to.

If the industry of producing asbestos is to continue, my Union will insist on every precaution be taken to eliminate dust from the working places, and is with confidence that we request immediate action in your Department in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Amk
6.5.48.
4-5.48.

J. T. Quinn
SECRETARY A. W. U.
Mining Division

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
102550
PENGAD-Byones, N. J.

Private.

PRIVATE

7th May, 1948.

The Mine Manager,
WITTENOOM COAL.

Dear Sir,

This morning, Mr. Foxall, State Mining Engineer, called at my office to discuss a complaint from the Secretary of the A.W.U. (Mr. Oliver).

Mr. Foxall's permission was obtained and a copy of the A.W.U.'s letter was taken and is enclosed.

Referring to this letter:-

1. Mr. Foxall is keen that the regulations be complied with in full and it is considered that an assurance from you that conditions are being brought into line as quickly as possible would be of great value. Mr. Foxall is personally interested in the use of diesel looms underground as it was introduced during his term of office and wishes to be proved successful.

It was explained that no details of conditions concerning the looms could be given by me.

2. It was pointed out to Mr. Foxall that a great interest in the control of the dust and that a considerable amount of research had been done in the past and is continuing.

3. Your correspondence (Your 537) on this matter was shown to Mr. Foxall and mention was made that because of pressure of work and lack of a visit from Mr. Oliver, this matter had been temporarily left in abeyance, but as could be seen, this matter was being attended to.

This interview was carried out under a very friendly atmosphere and I am sure that Mr. Foxall appreciates that we are doing all possible to comply with his requirements.

Yours truly,

For AUSTRALIAN FUEL ASSOCIATION

Perth Engineer.