

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1961 Nov 30

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Internal A.B.A. Letter RE Serious
Situation with Dust Collection

SIMPSON

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PERH (1736)

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AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS PTY. LIMITED

MANAGING AGENTS

THE COLONIAL SUGAR REFINING COMPANY LIMITED
1-2, O'CONNELL ST., SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

ADDRESS ALL LETTERS
BOX 443, G.P.O.,
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
CABLES: SUGAR SYDNEY

MINES & MILLS
WITTENBOM GORGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LTD.
4 - DEC 1961
PERTH, W.A.

MGK:JAF

P. No. 164.
30th November, 1961.

The General Superintendent,
Australian Blue Asbestos Pty.Ltd.,
PERTH.

Dear Sir,

DUST COLLECTION. W.P.878. We are deeply disturbed by the letter of November 6 written by Mr. Boyland to the Manager, Australian Blue Asbestos Pty.Ltd. This indicates a much more serious situation than we had understood to be the case and we consider that we are obliged to reply to the letter (as from the Manager, A.B.A).

A possible draft letter is suggested below. You or Mr.Allan may like to enlarge on this.

In addition we think it may serve a useful purpose to forward a letter from this office to the State Mining Engineer to give assurance of our awareness of the problem, our serious concern about it and the action planned to improve the position. We will send the signed original of this letter to you and if you agree, ask you to pass it on to Mr.Brisbane. If you think it requires amendment please telegraph your comments by B.M.D. telex and we will re-write the letter if necessary.

In the event (which we hope is remote) that Mr. Boyland serves notice that the Mine or Mill is unsafe you are to instruct Mr. Allan to stand down all employees without pay until further notice. We do not know at this stage how to improve the dust hazard any more quickly and therefore service of notice will not help to improve conditions more rapidly.

We would however like you to ensure that the Rotoclones are working as effectively as they can and that a full head of water is being maintained without fail at all times.

Australian Blue Asbestos Pty.Ltd. -2-

P. No. 164.
30th November, 1961.

DRAFT TO MR. BOYLAND.

"We wish to acknowledge your letter of November 6 concerning dust conditions at Wittenoom. As you know we have conscientiously worked to improve dust elimination and have made a lot of progress. This has been a difficult and costly job and we are still assiduously pursuing further improvement. It will be made as rapidly as we can arrange it.

It would assist us if you could give us a measure of the standards with which you seek to have us comply and of the test methods to be used to check these standards.

Please be assured that we are anxious to avoid conditions which may be hazardous or injurious to the health of our employees and will do our utmost to avoid them."

(Signed O.A. Allan)
Manager.

Houses. Please advise us of our commitment in regard to maintenance of town houses. What is the unexpired term of our agreement with the W.A. Housing Commission and what would be our annual liability if the houses were all unoccupied?

A copy of this letter is enclosed for you to forward to Mr. Allan if you wish.

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm B. King

pro Managing Director.