EXHIBIT
CSR-248

136

AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED

"BLUEASBESTOS" WITTENOOM

WITTENOOM GORGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

General Manager,
State Government Insurance Office,
184, St.George's Terrace,
PERTH, W.A.

29th June, 1960.

Dear Sir,

We have for acknowledgment your letter of 20th June referring to Industrial Disease claims.

Popoff worked in our old plant for the period stated and was exposed to the very dusty conditions for most of that time..... It is very difficult to give any reasonable explanation, for there are severe men who have been with us for many years and who have been exposed to the same conditions and yet none of these men show any signs of the disease.

We have made every effort to reduce the dusty conditions and a sum of £60,000 was spent on dust collection equipment in our old plant and this had an immediate and beneficial effect on the conditions as the figures listed below will show. These counts were taken by the Inspector of Mines in August and October 1957, when the dust collectors were put in operation in early October.

Before Cotoclone Equipment Installed		After Cotoclone Equipment Installed.
420	Nos.1 & 2 Rees Chain Feeder from Ore Bin.	130
250	No.2a Conveyor Belt	70
350	Feed to Blake Jaw Crusher	37
520	Jacques Crusher	170
730	Vicinity Traylor crusher	180
1000+	Discharge from Symons to belt conveyor.	520
1000+	Vicinity of Cobra Mill.	550
480	Operating Platform for Rolls and screens etc.	640
410	Operator's platform vicinity of Rubit breaker, screens and fibre collection.	240
440	Vicinity Nos.3 & 4 Trommels.	320
360	Bagging section (south side)	320
1000+	Bagging section (north side)	500
210	Centre of fibre storage room	150
180	Outside plant. Vicinity of Plant office.	50

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In 1958, the Ventilation Inspector made another visit in company with the District Inspector and he wrote in his report - "The readings of dust samples taken in Wittenoom Mill are attached. These are the best counts ever obtained and bear out the recent report by Inspector Inkston, the District Inspector." (This stated that conditions were generally very good).

During this time, we were constructing our new Mill and every precaution was taken to keep dust to a minimum. The Colonial Mill commenced operations in June, 1958 and by June, 1959 three treatment units were operating. Every attention is given to dust elimination and regular readings are taken by Ventilation Inspectors. During a recent visit the Inspector reported - Conditions were quite satisfactory and the Mill Supervisory Staff are now maintaining a high standard of dust suppression and Mill cleanliness. Each report is similar to this, so that you can see conditions are satisfactory. In December, 1959, the Unions made a claim for a Dust Allowance. This was heard before a Board of Reference consisting of the Assistant Registrar of the Arbitration Court, a representative of the Unions and a representative of the Company. The Board refused the application and the Chairman made the following

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" The latest dust count taken in September, 1959 shows the highest reading at 280 p.p.C.C. being recorded on the north side of the Bagging Section and it was suggested by the Inspector that this dust was mainly from external sources. This count of 280 p.p.C.C. was extremely low and compared more than favourably with counts taken in "wet" plants in the Gold Mining Industry. In October, 1957 the dust counts varied from 400 to 1,000 plus November, 1958 120 to 270 and August, 1959, 120 to 280 (Bagg.Section 220), which clearly illustrates the great improvement in dust collection methods. From the monthly reports submitted by an Inspector of Mines and a Workmen's Inspector of Mines it was conclusive that the present position was quite satisfactory.

At the inspection I was impressed with the nature of the dust eradication plant and at the absence of dust at many points.

Over many years I had experience in various Goldfields and have inspected many crushing and treatment plants and feel that, despite the dry crushing method adopted at Wittenoom, this plant compares favourably with other mini plants. The nature of the Industry is one where dust cannot be avoided but, where an employer is doing everything possible to eradicate dust, and thus create better working conditions and has in fact succeeded to the satisfaction of Inspectors of Mines and the health of the workers improved to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Health Officer controlling the annual X-ray examinations, I do not feel that the Board would be justified in granting a dust allowance to any of the workers in the various sections."

As pointed out in the Chairman's remarks the highest reading was 280 p.p.C.C. and in this case the dust would be from external sources.

We carry out regular dust counts - we have a Watson Konimeter for this purpose. Recently we have ordered a new type of instrument known as the Midget Dust Impinger and this is used in the Asbestos industry for dust

and filter sampling. This will enable us to obtain accurate concentrat of dust. We have not yet received delivery of the instrument.

We quote hereunder an extract from a letter from the Ontario Mining Association in Toronto, Canada.

"We in Ontario use the following general classifications for concentrati of dust particles -

100 particles per c.c.	=	Excellent
Up to 300	"	" "	=	Good
500 - 600	"	" "	=	Fair
Over 1000	"	" "	=	Poor "

These are readings taken by a Konimeter which is the recognis instrument used by all Inspectors of Mines.

The readings listed hereunder are the results of the most previous tabulation of dust counts taken on the lease by the Inspector o 26 and 27th August, 1959.

Colonial Mine

No.3 Adit Face	=	150	Particles per c.c.
5 Level South Drive Face	=	120	" " "
52N Stope	=	130	" " "
51N South Stope Drive	=	150	" " "
52S Stope	=	150	" " "
52S West Stope Drive	=	120	" " "
3 Level 9014 Stope	=	100	" " "
1 Level 2050 Stope Lower Sn.	=	160	" " "
1 Level 2080 Stope	=	120	" " "

Colonial Mill

At Picking Belt	=	220	Particles per c.c.
Near Discharge from Symons to Conveyor to Primary Bin	=	160	" " "
Screens, Discharge to belt to Drier	=	130	" " "
At Symons Crusher	=	210	" " "
No.1 & 2 Screens	=	160	" " "
Around Cleaning Vibrating Screens	=	210	" " "
at Bagging point	=	220	" " "
On Bagging floor north side	=	220	" " "

Both the code table above and the readings at Australian Blue Asbestos Limited have been arrived at through the use of a Konimar.

So you will see that our figures compare very favourably with the code table.

In conclusion, we would advise that we give our closest attention to the suppression and collection of dust and we feel that the effects will be most beneficial.

If we can be of further assistance would you kindly advise us.

Yours faithfully,

Kenaway.

OAA/MS.

C 2100