

TO: C.W.P.S.C.

QLD PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES  
FAX (07) 35536699  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

FROM: ANDREW GRAY.

14TH OCTOBER, 2016.  
TOTAL 17 PAGES.

DEAR MADAM/SIR,

I READ YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NORTH WEST STAR DATED 8-10-16, ON PAGE 9, CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS REGARDING THE REEMERGENCE OF C.W.P. IN QLD.

I HAVE NO COMPUTER SO HOPE MY SUBMISSION MEETS YOUR GUIDELINES.

THE AREAS I WISH TO MENTION ARE (A) SOURCE OF C.W.P., (B) WORKERS IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS, (C) ROBOTS, (D) OPEN CUT COAL MINE EMPLOYEES, (E) MONITORING, (F) AIR FILTERING, (G) FILTER EQUIPMENT, (H) ADVERSE CONDITIONS CAUSING NON USE OF FILTER MASK, (I) MOTIVATION TO USE FILTER MASKS, (J) TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR FILTER MASKS, ETC, (K) COAL MINE CLOTHING, ETC, (L) COAL MINE EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN SOLUTIONS, (M) ALCOHOL USE, (N) SOCIOLOGICAL ATTITUDES TO SAFETY EQUIPMENT, (O) BACKYARD BURNING BY COAL MINERS, (P) SLEEP APNOEA AND COAL MINERS.

(A) SOURCE OF C.W.P.

I BELIEVE C.W.P. COMES FROM COAL MINE EMPLOYEES BREATHING IN THE PARTICULATES AND GASSES DURING THE MINING OF COAL.

(B) WORKERS IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS.

12

IN ABOUT THE 1990IES NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE PUBLISHED AN EDITION THAT HAD A SMALL ARTICLE, OR ADVERTISEMENT ABOUT A BOOK THAT LISTED A LOT OF OCCUPATIONS AND THE ILLNESSES THAT RESULTED FROM THOSE OCCUPATIONS. I EXPECT IT WOULD HAVE LISTED COAL MINERS AND C.W.P. BAKERS AND RESPIRATORY ILL HEALTH DUE TO FLOUR DUST, ETC. NEW SCIENTIST HAVE INDEXES AND THE ARTICLE (?) MAY BE TRACEABLE, OTHERWISE NEW SCIENTIST STAFF MAY BE ABLE TO HELP TRACE THE DETAILS OF THAT BOOK.

IF THE QLD PARLIAMENT WISHES TO ASSIST MANY MORE QLD WORKERS THIS BOOK MAY BE AVAILABLE SECOND HAND, FROM THE QLD STATE LIBRARY COLLECTION, OR NEW IF IT IS BEING UPDATED AND REPRINTED.

### (C) ROBOTS.

WITH DEVELOPMENT OF ROBOTS PROCEEDING WELL, EVENTUALLY THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COAL MINING. UNTIL THEN I BELIEVE IT IS A MATTER OF FILTERING THE AIR THE COAL MINERS BREATHE.

### (D) OPEN CUT COAL MINE EMPLOYEES

### (E) MONITORING

TV NEWS ON 12-10-16, STATED AN OPEN CUT MINER WHO WORKED ALL HIS LIFE AT THAT MINE HAD C.W.P. THAT NEWS PIECE ALSO MENTIONED CITIZENS, CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR HEALTH, LIVING CLOSE TO THE RAIL LINES USED TO CARRY COAL.

HOPEFULLY FOR THOSE LIVING NEAR COAL MINES, OR NEAR THE RAIL LINES USED TO CARRY COAL, MONITORING EQUIPMENT CAN BE USED TO SURVEY THE AIR FOR PARTICUL-



3

ATES AND GASSES, FROM COAL. THE TV PIECE INTERVIEWED AN EXPERT WHO STATED A POLYMER (PLASTIC), IS SPRAYED ON TO THE TOP OF THE COAL IN THE RAIL WAGONS TO PREVENT COAL DUST ESCAPING. DESPITE THIS I THINK MONITORING SHOULD BE DONE AS WIND CAN BE STRONG, ALSO, SUN LIGHT CAN CAUSE PLASTIC TO DETERIORATE, PLUS COAL CAN SETTLE THUS CHANGE THE SHAPE OF THE TOP OF THE COAL IN THE WAGON.

(F) AIR FILTERING

(G) FILTER EQUIPMENT

AIR FILTERING SEEMS TO BE THE PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM OF CONTAMINATED AIR CAUSING C.W.P. IN COAL MINE EMPLOYEES.

TO FILTER ALL THE AIR IN UNDERGROUND COAL MINES WOULD BE TOO EXPENSIVE AND ADD TO THE EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN THE MINE. FILTERING ALL THE AIR AT AN OPEN CUT MINE WOULD NOT BE A SENSIBLE, OR PRACTICAL, SOLUTION, I BELIEVE.

I THUS CONCLUDE THAT WORKERS WEARING FILTER MASKS WOULD BE THE BEST SOLUTION AND MOST PRACTICAL, ALONG WITH REGULAR X RAY CHECKS FOR C.W.P.

AROUND THE HOUSE I USE A HALF MASK RESPIRATOR. IT HAS FILTERS ON BOTH SIDES AND COVERS MY NOSE AND MOUTH. THE FILTER MATERIAL IS ABOUT 3.5 CM WIDE AND IS MADE UP OF A WASHABLE PART AND A NON WASHABLE PART. THE REST OF THE MASK AND THE STRAPS ARE WASHABLE.

A FULL FACE MASK IS THE MOST PRACTICAL AND AFFORDABLE, I BELIEVE, FOR COAL MINING. IT HAS EVERYTHING A HALF

<sup>4</sup>  
MASK DOES PLUS IT COVERS THE WHOLE FACE WITH A CLEAR FACE PLATE SO THE USER CAN SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING. SOME BRANDS ALLOW THE USER TO SPEAK AND BE HEARD AS THEY HAVE A SMALL OPENING, PROBABLY WITH A ONE WAY VALVE IN IT. SOME BRANDS OF FULL FACE MASK HAVE A TUBE TO THE MASK TO PROVIDE AIR. THE TUBE RUNS FROM A FILTER BOX WORN ON THE WAIST AND THIS FILTER BOX IS POWERED BY BATTERIES TO PUMP THE AIR THROUGH THE FILTERS TO THE MASK.

BUBBLE SUITS USED FOR WORK WITH RADIOACTIVE, OR BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS CAN BE ZIP UP AND HAVE A SET OF FILTERS LIKE THE HALF MASK, BUILT INTO THE SUIT. ON TOP OF THAT ONCE IN THE SUIT THE USER CAN WEAR A HALF MASK FOR DOUBLE PROTECTION.

SPARE PARTS FOR THE FULL FACE MASK WOULD NEED TO BE READILY AVAILABLE AS STRAPS STRETCH, PLASTIC SCREW THREADS BREAK, CLEAR FACE PLATES GET SCRATCHED, NON WASHABLE FILTERS NEEDED, REPLACING, ETC.

THE WEARING OF A FULL FACE MASK REQUIRES A CLEAN SHAVEN FACE AS THE MASK HAS TO SEAL AGAINST THE SKIN OF THE FACE.

(4) ADVERSE CONDITIONS CAUSING NON USE OF FILTER MASK.

5

IT SEEMS THAT HEAT MAY BE THE MAIN REASON WORKERS DON'T WANT TO WEAR FILTER MASKS. A SURVEY OF WORKERS WOULD BE VITAL TO ESTABLISH WHY WORKERS DON'T WISH TO WEAR FILTER MASKS IF THE SELECT COMMITTEE DECIDES FILTER MASKS ARE THE BEST SOLUTION TO PREVENTING C.W.P.

FOR OPEN CUT WORKERS THE SUN HEATS UP BLACK COLOURED OBJECTS A LOT MORE THAN WHITE. UNFORTUNATELY FULL FACE MASKS CAN OFTEN BE BLACK, BUT A WHITE, OR OTHER LIGHT COLOURED FULL FACE MASK, WITH WHITE, OR LIGHT COLOURED FILTERS, WOULD BE BEST TO PREVENT HEAT BUILD UP DUE TO THE SUN.

FOR UNDERGROUND WORKERS THE CLOSED IN SHAFT MEANS HIGHER TEMPERATURES THAN OUTSIDE. LIKE FILTERING ALL AIR IN THE SHAFT, AIR CONDITIONING ALL SHAFT AIR WOULD ADD A HUGE COST TO COAL EXTRACTION, I BELIEVE.

THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO COOL THE EMPLOYEE. THE THREE METHODS I CAN THINK OF ARE (a) A VEST, I HAVE SEEN, IN CATALOGUES FROM SAFETY SHOPS, THAT CONTAINS WATER. DESIGNED TO HELP COOL WORKERS THE VEST CAN BE REFRIGERATED, THEN WORN. ONCE THAT VEST NO LONGER HELPED COOL THE EMPLOYEE WOULD NEED TO SWAP IT FOR ANOTHER, COOL, VEST, (b) A BANDANNA. SAME PRINCIPLE AS THE VEST, BUT FOR COOLING THE



6

THE HEAD, (c) THE EMPLOYEE DRINKING CHILLED WATER, BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE TAKING THE FULL FACE MASK OFF. AN ENCLOSED, SEALED ROOM WOULD BE NEEDED. I BELIEVE SUCH ROOMS ARE REQUIRED IN CASE OF A CAVE IN, TO WITHSTAND THE CRUSH OF COAL.

(I) MOTIVATION TO USE FILTER MASKS.

TO MOTIVATE EMPLOYEES TO WEAR FULL FACE MASKS WOULD REQUIRE ONE, OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING, TO OVERCOME THE DISADVANTAGES SUCH AS HEAT (a) A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE USUALLY WORKS FOR MOST PEOPLE, BUT WOULD NEED MONITORING SUCH AS C.C.TV WHICH SOME EMPLOYEES AND UNIONS DON'T LIKE, OR MONITORING WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE BY A SUPERVISOR, AT IRREGULAR TIMES, (b) EDUCATING EMPLOYEES ABOUT THE ADVERSE HEALTH IMPACT OF C.W.P. THE TROUBLE IS, AS PEOPLE HAVE MADE CLEAR MANY TIMES, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY AND FEEL BULLET PROOF THUS CAN'T COMPREHEND THAT THE SMALL, DAILY IMPACTS ON THEIR HEALTH DO CAUSE LONG TERM MISERY AND SUFFERING FROM C.W.P., ETC., (c) PUNISHMENT FOR NOT WEARING THE FULL FACE MASK WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE UNIONS WHO WOULD IN TURN DISCUSS THIS UNPLEASANT MOTIVATIONAL SUBJECT

WITH THEIR <sup>7</sup> MEMBERS.

(J) TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR FILTER MASKS, ETC.

IF AN EMPLOYER DIDN'T PROVIDE THE FULL FACE MASK AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AN EMPLOYEE WOULD BE BEST OFF PURCHASING IT FOR THEMSELVES. IN THAT CASE IT IS VITAL THE EMPLOYEE OBTAIN A RECEIPT THEN CLAIM THE COST AS A WORK RELATED EXPENSE AT THE TIME OF FILING THEIR ANNUAL TAX RETURN.

THE TAX OFFICE MAY WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED TO EXPLAIN THEIR ROLE AS A CLAIM BY BOTH A MINE OWNER AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE SAME SAFETY EQUIPMENT MAY INDICATE AN ATTEMPT TO DEFRAUD THE GOVERNMENT OF REVENUE VITALLY NEEDED FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF SOCIETY.

THE TAX ACT COULD BE WRITTEN IN PART TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT. CAREFUL THINKING WOULD NEED TO BE DONE ON HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE A PRACTICAL OUTCOME TO MOTIVATE AND ENCOURAGE WORKERS TO USE AND EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE SAFETY EQUIPMENT AS THE LOWER TAX RECEIPTS WOULD ACT AS AN EXPENSE ON SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

(K) COAL MINE CLOTHING, ETC.

ALL COAL MINE CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, ETC, USED DURING WORK.

8

WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN AT THE MINE. CLOTHING WOULD ONLY BE WASHED AT THE MINE. CLOTHING, ETC, COULD NOT BE TAKEN FROM THE MINE, I BELIEVE AS, IN THE CASE OF CLOTHING THE COAL MINERS PARTNER, AT HOME, MAY WASH THE CLOTHES AND THUS BE EXPOSED TO THE C.W.P. CAUSING DUST.

(L) COAL MINE EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN SOLUTIONS.

THE PROBLEM OF C.W.P. IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS AS PEOPLE ARE BECOMING SICK AND DYING DUE TO C.W.P. OUR ENVIRONMENT CAN CAUSE US ILLNESS WHETHER WE'RE AT WORK, AT HOME, OR ELSEWHERE. I THEREFORE SEE A NEED TO CONSULT WITH COAL MINE EMPLOYEES REGARDING ALL ASPECTS OF THIS C.W.P. INVESTIGATION BY THE QLD PARLIAMENT.

OTHER PEOPLE WHO NEED TO BE CONSULTED ARE EXPERIENCED SAFETY SHOP EMPLOYEES, WORK SAFETY EXPERTS AND PEOPLE WITH LONG TERM SAFETY EQUIPMENT EXPERIENCE. WORKER MEDICAL PROVIDING PEOPLE NEED TO OUTLINE ILLNESSES AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM. MOTIVATIONAL EXPERTS NEED AN INPUT. UNIONS NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THEY SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN PROVIDING SAFETY EQUIPMENT OR INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE THE BEST EQUIPMENT IS, AT THE BEST PRICES.

AS A DISABLED PENSIONER



9

DUE TO BAD PUBLIC HOUSING, CRIMINAL, PSYCHIATRIC TYPE NEIGHBOURS, THUS NOT WORKING, UNFORTUNATELY AND WITH NO DEGREE, BUT SOME TIME AT UNIVERSITY AND SOME SUBJECTS PASSED, PLUS SOME YEARS WORKING PRIOR TO NEEDING PENSION SUPPORT, I HOPE TO SEE OTHER MUCH NEEDED INPUT TO THIS INQUIRY COME FROM THE ABOVE KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE.

MOST OF ALL THE COALMINERS THEMSELVES CAN BE ONE OF THE BEST SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE TO THIS INQUIRY, I BELIEVE.

THE ENGINEERING GRADUATES WHO WORK IN MINES SHOULD HAVE IDEAS RE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS TO MINIMISE COAL PARTICULATES AND GASES. FOR EXAMPLE, AS COAL IS A FOSSIL FUEL IT GIVES OFF EXPLOSIVE GASES SUCH AS METHANE. I BELIEVE THERE IS MONITORING TO LOOK OUT FOR METHANE, ETC, THUS COULD THAT MONITORING SYSTEM BE COMPLEMENTED WITH OTHER MONITORS TO REDUCE C.W.P.? ANONYMOUS SUGGESTION BOXES, OR REGULAR MEETINGS TO ELICIT IDEAS MAY WELL HELP.

#### (M) ALCOHOL USE.

THE ENCLOSED PAGE FROM THE N.S.W. CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AND INFORMATION ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SHOWS ALCOHOL CAUSES AGGRESSION, DEPRESSION, BREAK DOWN OF INHIBITIONS, ETC, SO CHANGES THE PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER OF A PERSON AS WELL AS PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE BR-

10

RIN, LIVER, ETC. OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES STATE 85% OF EVERY POPULATION DRINKS ALCOHOL. THERE IS A NEED WHEN USING SAFETY EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS A FULL FACE MASK FOR EMPLOYEES, TO BE EMOTIONALLY STABLE AND SO NOT TO BE EMOTIONALLY DESTABILISED BY A DRUG OF ADDICTION LIKE ALCOHOL. IT DOES NOT HELP THE EMPLOYEE IF THEY BECOME ANERY OVER HAVING TO USE THE FULL FACE MASK, OR OVER THE HEAT THE MASK CAUSES AND TAKE THE MASK OFF, EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO C.W.P. SOCIALISING WITH NON ALCOHOLIC DRINK IS OK.

(N) SOCIOLOGICAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

THERE IS A NEED TO ENCOURAGE A GOOD GROUP (SOCIOLOGICAL) ATTITUDE TOWARDS SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO HELP ENCOURAGE USE OF FULL FACE MASKS.

THE NEED TO SCAPE GOAT OTHERS IS WITH US AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS GROUPS, IN SOCIETY. THERE IS A NEED TO CONTROL THAT URGE TO SCAPE-GOAT, TO LIVE WITHIN THE LAW AND TO BE SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE, TO SEEK SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE METHODS TO RELEASE FRUSTRATIONS, THE DESIRE TO HAVE THINGS OUR WAY, STRESS, ETC. IF WE BULLY OTHERS OVER THEIR WEARING SAFETY EQUIPMENT WE WILL BE

"

MAKING IT HARDER FOR THE VICTIMS TO USE SAFETY EQUIPMENT. THE ENCLOSED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE RELATES A CASE OF BULLYING IN THE MINING SECTOR. TOLERANCE (PAGES ENCLOSED), TOWARDS OTHERS, LIVING WITHIN THE LAW, MEANS ACCEPTANCE OF ALL IDEAS, BEHAVIOURS, THAT ARE LAW ABIDING.

(O) BACKYARD BURNING BY COAL MINERS.

THE ATTACHED ARTICLE FROM NEW SCIENTIST MAGAZINE, DATED 15-1-00, PAGE 9, SHOWS PROBLEMS FROM BACKYARD BURNING OF HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH. AS THE BACKYARD BURNING OF HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH STILL GOES ON IN SOME HOUSEHOLDS, OR EVEN FROM NEIGHBOURS PROPERTIES, THERE IS A NEED FOR COAL MINERS TO NOT ADD TO THEIR RISK OF C.W.P. BY BURNING HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH, OR ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO BE SUBJECTED TO IT.

(P) SLEEP APNOEA AND COAL MINERS.

AS A SLEEP APNOEA SUFFERER I'M CONCERNED FOR THOSE WHO SNORE, WHETHER OLD, OR YOUNG, FEMALE, OR MALE, IF THAT PERSON SNORES THEY HAVE SLEEP APNOEA AND NEED TO SEE A G.P. TO OBTAIN A REFERRAL TO A SLEEP SPECIALIST. THE C.W.P. CAUSES RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS AND WHILE NOT ASTHMA, AS THE ENCLOSED ARTICLE IS ABOUT, C.W.P. MAY INCREASE THE RISK OF APNOEA. YOURS SINCERELY,