

5 October 2018

To the CEOs of Queensland coal mining operators as addressed:

We are writing on behalf of the growing number of Queensland coal workers who are suffering from coal mine dust related diseases to seek your agreement to establish a fund to assist victims.

We are proposing a modest *one cent, per tonne, per week* levy on coal produced in Queensland to initially establish a Queensland-wide coal industry fund to assist those coal workers who are already suffering from mine dust diseases and the increasing number of other victims being diagnosed.

We remind you that the debilitating and often deadly industrial lung diseases we are suffering from have been inflicted by coal employers' failure to provide a safe workplace for employees.

Mine Dust Disease victims are not only being subjected to ill-health and increasingly death, but we and our families are paying a high economic price through substantial travel and medical costs and treatments that we have to meet from our own pockets. These expenses alone are deterring many employees, former coal industry workers and retired mineworkers from accessing medical tests to diagnose and treat their conditions.

We believe it is time for all coal producing companies in Queensland to step up to the plate and assist victims through our very modest proposal of *one cent, per tonne per week* levy.

Our proposal is for the fund to be administered by a tripartite body comprising representatives of employers, Unions and the State Government. It needs to be fully transparent to the industry and the general public. As a starting point for discussion, we believe this Fund could be used for, but not limited to:

- Travel costs for medical consultations, testing and treatment.
- Rehabilitation costs.
- Counselling for victims and close family.
- Specialist research into best practice diagnosis and treatment of Dust Diseases.

In essence, all we are asking for, as Coal Mine Dust Disease victims, is a fair go – for us, our families and for the increasing number of other workers who unfortunately will experience the same pain, suffering and trauma that we have been subjected to. We look forward to your positive reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Stoddart



Steve Mellor



Tim Trewin