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Legislative Council Hansard (Extract)

Hansard extract, NSW Legislative Council, 14 April 1994 (article 35).

Speech Type: QON; Questions On Notice

MINE SUBSIDENCE

Dr Burgmann asked the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Housing representing the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, and Minister for Mines -

(1) Could the Minister provide full details of the effect of mine subsidence caused by long wall mining on homes in:

(a) the Woolrising area?

(b) other areas of New South Wales where long wall mining occurs or has occurred?

(2) Could the Minister provide details of the Rae exhibit, quoted on page 118 of the Dey Report?

Answer -

(1) (a) The mining of two panels of coal in the Marmong Point/Woodrising/Teralba area resulted in 132 claims for compensation being lodged in the Mine Subsidence Board.

Within the area measured by survey as being affected by mine subsidence, 98% of claims were accepted and the average cost of repairs to dwellings was in the order of \$500, demonstrating that the damage was generally quite minor.

A shopping centre and a school were also affected and had cosmetic damage repaired. A total of \$90,000 was spent on the school, \$22,000 on the shopping centre, and \$66,000 on all of the dwellings.

Subsidence in one area reached 480 mm, but generally the average maximum was 250 mm.

(b) Many other areas in New South Wales have been undermined by the longwall method over the last 20 years. Most of them have had no effect on the structures on the surface. Claims for compensation for damaged dwellings have been made in several areas such as Barnsley, Ellalong, Holmesville, Speers Point, Tahmoor, West Wallsend and Wyee. In all cases, where damage was caused by mine subsidence, repairs or compensation were paid by the Mine Subsidence Board.

(2) The item referred to as the "Rae Exhibit on page 118 of the Dey Report" is an extract from a report written by a Mr N Rae, a coal mining engineer, employed at the time by B.H.P. Collieries. The report formed part of that company's application to mine beneath the Marmong Point/Woodrising/Teralba areas and was prepared in consultation with Dr W Kapp, a subsidence engineer.

The report is of some 17 pages plus plans and deals with technical aspects of coal mine engineering, geology, a description of surface features and the likely effect, if any, of subsidence upon them.

Justice Dey in his report to the Inquiry into the application, referred to the report because of assertions that the proposed mining would be a 'test case'. It seems that that assertion may have originated from the paragraph quoted at Page 118, which stated:

"As subsidence due to longwall mining has become a matter of concern in residential areas it is proposed that these two longwall blocks will provide an opportunity for people to see how longwall mining can co-exist with residential development.