



*Three of the new Pike River Recovery Agency miners train in completing forensic work, at the Rapahoe New Zealand Mines Rescue Service training tunnels. A silhouette of Family Reference Group member Anna Osborne can just be seen at right.*



*New Pike River Recovery Agency miner Kevin Kilkelly learns about the preservation of evidence at the New Zealand Mines Rescue Service training tunnel in Rapahoe.*

# New miners learn the ropes

Six new miners have joined the Pike River Mine-based team of the Pike River Recovery Agency, and two more will start over the next few weeks.

Agency Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson says the addition of the new miners will enable the Agency to run two underground shifts each day.

"We will be able to increase the advance rate of the re-entry and recovery operation, while always having health and safety as our major focus," Dinghy says.

"We finished the original forensic scan through to 218m and the roof support rebolting up to 198m by the end of January.

"We know we have more roof bolting to do when we reach the 300m mark, and there will be more further up the drift. I'm pleased with progress and the way the team is working. It will be great to get these new guys trained up and helping us out underground too."

Recruitment is also well underway for a new Health, Safety, Risk and Assurance Advisor and an Electrical Technician. Details are on the Agency website, [www.pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz](http://www.pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz).



*Minister Andrew Little at the Pike River Mine portal area with Dinghy Pattinson last Friday. Thousands of litres of water pour out of the mine drift every day.*

## Minister visits mine site for update

Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry Hon Andrew Little visited the Pike River Mine site recently for an update from the Agency.

The Minister met with Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson and was escorted to the portal area to see the latest changes outside the mine drift and hear about progress underground.

## Read all about it...

The latest tranche of weekly briefings from the Agency to the Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry Hon Andrew Little are available in the [Documents](#) section of the Agency website. (Please note there were only two briefings in December 2019.) The latest correspondence between WorkSafe and the Agency is also available in the Documents section.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) are available on the Te Kāhui Whakamana Rua Tekau mā Iwa - Pike River Recovery Agency website.

If you want to ask something specific, email us at [info@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz](mailto:info@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz). Please direct any media queries to [media@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz](mailto:media@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi,

The Pike River Recovery Agency team



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