

# PRRA Staff Weekly Unite for the Recovery Update #9 – Monday 20 July 2020

Hi everyone

Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> edition Pike River Recovery Agency weekly staff update which includes information on uniting for the recovery from COVID-19 and operational matters. Please forward any contributions to me that would be of interest to the team.

UPDATES FROM [www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz](http://www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz)



## ***Plan to respond to new COVID-19 cases in the community***

The Government has unveiled a “Stamp it Out” plan for responding to new cases of COVID-19 in the community.

<https://www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/latest-updates/plan-to-respond-to-new-covid-19-cases-in-the-community/>

## ***Information about confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand:***

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-current-cases>

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

The 1255 metre mark has been reached. It took some time to recover Stub 2 at 1130 metres as some exhibits were identified and collected for the NZ Police in that area.

The atmosphere underground is normal and stable. There was an unscheduled callout to the site on Saturday 11 July to rectify a fault with the small surface compressor that runs the amenities air supply. There have been no security issues.

The trial of the new shift system has now completed its third week and is currently scheduled to run until the end of July.

Four mine site personnel completed a CABA walkout this week from the 1130 metre mark in the drift. The purpose of this walk was to make sure that the location of the quick-fill station would be suitable and to calculate how much each person used on the walk out. The CABA sets hold 300 bar of compressed air and, on average, only 65 bar was used in the walkout indicating that the sets would have sufficient capacity in the unlikely event that a real walk out using CABA sets was required.

The second refuge chamber was delivered to the site this week. It will be commissioned next week.

### ***Extended shift trial***

The second meeting of the group established to monitor the trial of the extended shift roster and other improvement initiatives was held on Tuesday 14 July.

Constructive feedback was provided about the operation and impact of the trial shifts and there was discussion about:

- Proactive management of fatigue and possible initiatives that could be taken (including the engagement of a suitably qualified specialist to advise staff on fatigue and shift work issues and ways of managing and reducing these, and reviewing the recovery time between finishing back shifts and starting day shifts)
- How the impact of the roster on the personal lives of workers could be recorded
- Performance against the health and safety targets for the trial (which has been positive so far)
- Data collection and sharing (including time spent underground, recovery progress and time savings during the daily pre-shift statutory inspection trial)
- Other improvement initiatives identified by the workforce

The next meeting of the group is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 21 July.

### ***Tube bundle system issues***

With snowfall on Mount Hawera during the winter months, the Tube Bundle System tubes have been freezing up which has led to incorrect gas readings and high vacuum pressures in the Maihak shed.

To rectify this the team is blowing out the tubes more often to remove any excess moisture in the lines as well as installing insulation on the tubes. Tubes will still freeze up from time to time but with these control measures we are reducing the frequency of this happening.

### ***Notifiable fire incident with portable generator on the hill***

The ICAM investigation into this incident is continuing. The fire investigator engaged by the Agency visited the site this week and inspected the generator. Their report will inform the findings of the ICAM investigation and the recommendations for action.

In the meantime:

- All but one of the portable generators that were previously on the hill have been removed. The remaining generator is at the vent shaft.
- A power cable has been run from the vent shaft to the PRDH47 decanting and injection valves and is now in operation.
- The Mechanical and Electrical Superintendents are working on fire suppression options for the remaining generator and a risk assessment has been carried out on relocating it.

WorkSafe's Mechanical inspectors were onsite on Thursday 11 June to complete a targeted assessment of the Mechanical PCP. The visit was positive. One verbal directive was received which was actioned immediately. This was acknowledged in the formal record of the visit which has now been received from WorkSafe. The record has been shared with the FRG and published on the Agency website in line with past practice.

## ***WorkSafe visits***

WorkSafe inspectors met with both the day and afternoon shift crews at their respective shifts on 24 June 2020. The inspectors informed the crews that the purpose of the visit was to investigate an anonymous complaint regarding the proposed shift patterns and fatigue associated with these temporary rosters.

Site Senior Executive Dinghy Pattinson provided the inspectors with an overview of the consultation process undertaken on site with all the workforce, not just the mine workers.

Dinghy also provided the inspectors with the following resources:

- The consultation document
- The refreshed Agency fatigue and stress policy
- The confidential worker fatigue declaration form that had been developed

The formal record of the visit has now been received from WorkSafe. In the record WorkSafe noted that a number of concerns had been raised about aspects of the consultation and implementation process, but advised that none of these amounted to health and safety issues for the inspectors to investigate further.

The record also referred to the WorkSafe inspectors having passed on “that there was a feeling that during the consultation process, the workforce had not been listened to.”

The Agency has responded by letter setting out the responses and suggestions the Agency received from workers during the consultation process that were accepted and implemented.

The information in the letter confirms that the Agency accepted most of the changes suggested by workers during consultation.

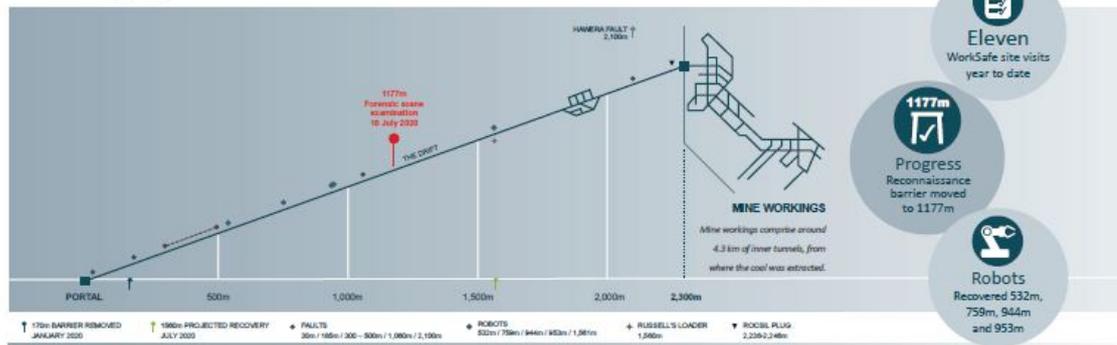
Both the record and the Agency’s response have been shared with the FRG and published on the Agency’s website.

There was one notified WorkSafe visit to the site last week to induct a new inspector and carry out a general site visit. One minor verbal directive was issued and a formal record of the visit is now expected.

Progress and status



Drift recovery progress



Sequence of events timeline



*Progress infographic as at 14 July 2020*

**Health & Safety**

The Agency has offered:

- To pay for accommodation in Greymouth for workers finishing the back shift at 2:30am, to save them having to drive themselves home from there in the early hours of the morning
- To provide designated drivers to drive workers to their homes at the end of the Back shift rather than dropping them at a central point in Greymouth and leaving them to drive themselves home

The Health and Safety Operational weekly meeting held at the mine site on Tuesday 7 July.

Items discussed included:

- The workforce are encouraged to fill out the fatigue management forms, as the committee would like to know when people are feeling fatigued so controls can be put in place to mitigate the effects of fatigue. The forms are completely confidential.
- Safe work observations – Five observations were completed during the week, three by statutory officials and two by mine workers.
- July 19 to June 20 92 hazards reported with 46 incidents
- Corrective actions being taken to address identified hazards
- Ongoing training
- Other safety improvements and initiatives

**From the Office (Wellington and Greymouth)**

The annual results of the satisfaction of the FRG with the engagement and liaison services provided by the Agency have been confirmed. The results exceed the performance standard

included in the Estimates for Vote Pike River Re-entry. I acknowledge the significant contribution of the FRG Liaison Officer, Emma Cummins towards this result.

The quarterly surveys of satisfaction are carried out independently by MBIE. The results provide valuable feedback to the Agency about matters of interest and concern and the Agency will continue to follow up all issues that are identified. The Agency management team continues to be available to the FRG to discuss any matters of common interest.

The office team is focused on:

- Continuing end of financial year work which will be reported in the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020
- Submitting the Agency's financial information for the year ended 30 June 2020 into the Crown's financial and information system (CFISnet) that informs the Crown's financial statements.
- Quality assurance of the expense disclosure for the Chief Executive for the year ended 30 June 2020 continues. The disclosure is due for publication on the websites of the Agency and the SSC by 31 July 2020
- Preparations for the external audit of the Agency that is planned to commence in August 2020 (tentative)
- Seeking proposals from suitably qualified personnel to provide information and advice to mine based personnel covering the psycho-social aspects of high stress environments, the psychological and especially physiological changes that occur when humans are placed in long term high stress or dangerous environments, the likely outcomes of this and some practical interventions that can be taken to alleviate the negative effects of this.
- Shaping the conflict of interest declaration for use by the person selected by the FRG and families to go underground as an observer at key stages of the recovery operation.
- Preparing a slide set for distribution next week to advise staff of the new Agency Flexible Work by Default Policy and Procedure and what it means for them
- Procuring the services of a replacement commercial cleaning company for both the mine site and Greymouth office as the current supplier has given notice they are withdrawing services from the West Coast.

### ***Media requests***

Media site visits are likely for the recovery of Russell Smith's loader. This will include filming by Screentime (documentary crew) on the day of the recovery; and daily news media may choose to come to the site the following day for interviews in front of the recovered loader. Note that our new site protocols limit the number of media at any one time to six in total.

Should any staff be approached by media, please contact the Principal External Relations Advisor – Communication, on 03 789 6522 or [lee.harris@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz](mailto:lee.harris@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz).

According to our Media Policy, the Agency has appointed spokespeople for broader Agency queries and operational queries. Any staff are able to talk to the media within their field of expertise. Staff are also at liberty to decline to talk to media whenever asked.

## ***Re-entry and recovery operations – to Thursday 16 July***

- The reconnaissance barrier is now at 1255 metres
- The conveyor structure has been removed in the 20 metre section before this. Forensic examination has been completed, services have been installed and the ventilation duct hung in place
- Pull testing of bolts was completed in accordance with the Geotech TARP and operating procedure. All tested bolts passed
- The local contractor who is carrying out rehabilitation work has filled in five ponds. Bridge abutment work will begin in coming weeks
- The underground refuge chamber was moved from 1025 to 1158 metres in an area where the drift widens out

## ***Confidential support – EAP***

**WHAT IS THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME?** Your Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) is a professional and confidential service paid for by your employer. It is to help you if you are experiencing any personal or work related difficulties. This service is provided by an independent company called EAP Services Limited, and their Professionals are all qualified, registered and experienced EAP specialists.

**WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE DOES EAP PROVIDE?** EAP Services provides brief, solution focussed support, to help you deal with any difficulties you may be experiencing, and to minimise their impact on your life. The discussions with your EAP Professional will be informal, friendly, and focussed on meeting your needs.

**YOUR EAP PROFESSIONAL WILL WORK TO ASSIST YOU:** 1. Clarify a problem 2. Identify your desired outcome 3. Develop a plan for you to achieve a positive result

### **WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT CAN EAP HELP TO ADDRESS?**

- Personal Relationships
- Children & Family Support
- Alcohol & Drug Problems
- Personal Legal Advice
- Gambling & Addictions
- Health & Lifestyle Issues
- Work Pressure & Problems
- Personal Development
- Separation & Divorce
- Grief & Bereavement
- Budgeting & Financial Management
- Conflict & Tension
- Anxiety & Depression
- Emotional Stress
- Trauma

If you are experiencing any personal or work related issues, then accessing EAP Services will be of benefit to you. Often the longer an issue is ignored, the bigger it gets and the more aspects of your life it will affect.

**WHEN CAN I ACCESS THESE SERVICES?** EAP Services operates 8:00 am – 7:00 pm, Monday to Friday. During this time all services are available either via Telephone, Face to Face, Video or WEB e-counselling. In addition, a number of EAP Services locations provide after-hours and weekend support.

For times when individual circumstances require an immediate response, an emergency telephone service operates providing 24 hours a day, 365 days a year access. On-call professionals are available to respond as the situation requires.

**HOW CAN MANAGERS USE THE EAP?** Sometimes employees need help if they aren't coping either at home or work. On these occasions, managers may wish to suggest to a staff member that they may benefit from using the EAP. The decision to attend is still entirely voluntary.

**CONFIDENTIALITY** All EAP consultations are strictly confidential. EAP Services does not share information about you with anyone, unless we have your written authority to do so. (The only exception is where our Professional identifies that your personal safety or harm to others is at risk and reserve the right to take appropriate action.)

In the case of workplace issues, you may authorise EAP Services to discuss the matter with your manager or another person you nominate to help address the situation.

### HOW DO I ACCESS EAP?

EAP appointments can be made simply by contacting EAP Services Limited anytime 24 hours 365 days by:



**SCAN QR**

**📞 NZ 24/7 0800 327 669**

**📞 AU 24/7 1800 726 474**

**📞 Intl 24/7 +64 9 353 0906**

**@ [www.eapservices.co.nz/booking](http://www.eapservices.co.nz/booking)**

Take care everyone and stay safe!  
Have a great week.

Best regards  
Michelle