

Milestone reached: Pit Bottom in Stone!



An historical photograph of the PBIS area taken in the Pike River Coal days.

Pit Bottom in Stone reached

Our underground teams have reached Pit Bottom in Stone (PBIS) 1880m up the Pike River Mine drift.

PBIS is an area of about 600m over seven roadways branching out from the main 2.3km drift tunnel.

All sorts of mining infrastructure is housed in PBIS, including underground electrical substations, switchboards, sumps, pumps and crushers. This is also the area where Daniel Rockhouse was refueling a loader when the original explosion happened on 19 November 2010.

The recovery and forensics of the Pit Bottom in Stone roadways are complex. The current plan consists of the following:

- A hazard assessment, inspection and forensic scan of all the PBIS roadways (approximately 600m).
- The seven entrances to these roadways will then be barricaded off to prevent entry other than statutory inspections.
- Continue recovery of the main drift from 1880m to the Rocsil plug located at 2240m, some 360m of roadway which will require re-supporting and removal of a debris field. This will take up to two months, providing we don't find any unexpected unknowns.
- Construct a rated VCD 10m out-by (on the mine portal/entrance side) of the Rocsil plug
- Once the rated VCD is constructed then all the PBIS roadways will be fully recovered and fully forensically examined.

Undertaking forensics on this area is going to require some additional expert guidance, and we're working through this with the New Zealand Police.



Read all about it...

The latest correspondence between WorkSafe and the Agency is available in the Documents section of the Agency website.

[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. Please direct any media queries to media@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi,

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