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TE KĀHUI WHAKAMANA
RUA TEKAU MĀ IWA
PIKE RIVER
RECOVERY AGENCY



The Re-entry team steps back into the Pike River Mine drift, on Tuesday 21 May 2019.



Agency Planning Officer Karl Maddaford hugs Family Reference Group (FRG) Chair Anna Osborne, while Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson and Sonya Rockhouse from the FRG stand at the back.

Re-entry has happened, what next?

On Tuesday 21 May 2019, the last piece of the concrete seal 30m into the Pike River Mine drift was removed, the double airlock doors opened, and our re-entry team stepped through.

Families of the Pike 29 who could attend cheered as they witnessed the re-entry, which has been eight and a-half years in coming.

Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson led Mine Deputy Kirk Neilson and geotechnical engineer Chris Lee past the 30m wall.

Inside, the team checked gas levels and looked at the state of the drift tunnel and infrastructure. Everything is in pretty good order, given there's been no-one maintaining this area.

Now that re-entry has happened, the Agency will establish fresh air ventilation up to the existing 170 metre wall and the door there closed. A fully engineered barrier is established at 170 metres, and re-entry is paused while the atmosphere beyond that wall is monitored for about a week. Then re-entry teams working in fresh air clear away the rest of the infrastructure up to that point (weirs, barriers, gabion baskets etc) to enable full access by mining equipment.

At the same time, plans for going beyond the 170 metre barrier will have input from WorkSafe and international experts, before being signed off.

After that, the teams will be moving carefully and deliberately up the drift observing actual conditions, pausing and replanning as required, and identifying anything of potential forensic interest.

Chief Executive Dave Gawn and Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson talk about what's next in this [YouTube video](#).

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

If you have any questions, you can email us at info@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz. Please direct any media queries to media@pikeriverrecovery.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi

The Pike River Recovery Agency team



The walkway over the weirs just inside the 30m wall of the drift. The weirs collect water and silt, allowing the water to discharge from the weirs, and the silt to settle.



Just out of the drift, Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson and the re-entry team talk about the experience with family members pictured holding balloons for each of the Pike 29 men.



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