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on our website!



TE KĀHUI WHAKAMANA  
RUA TEKAU MĀ IWA  
PIKE RIVER  
RECOVERY AGENCY



Mine worker Scotty (right) hugs Family Reference Group chair Anna Osborne.



A group of family members and Agency guides prepares to go underground in the drifttunnel.



Anna Osborne, Daniel and his mum Sonya Rockhouse tag in to go underground to the 170m barrier.

## Emotional visit underground for families

Twenty-six family members of the Pike 29 miners went underground to the 170m barrier on Thursday 3 October, an emotional first for many, Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson says.

“We had one of our guys accompanying each of the families who went up in the drifrunner in groups of four or five, looking after them and ensuring they were okay. Most of the family members had never been underground before, and it was a difficult journey for them emotionally. But several told me how much they appreciated the opportunity,” Mr Pattinson says.

Chief Executive Dave Gawn says it was important to give the families the opportunity to enter the drift now, before the Agency takes the next steps to remove the 170m barrier and advance further up towards the roof fall 2.3km up which prevents further access into the mine workings area. The mine workings is the area where the Pike 29 were believed to be working when the mine exploded on 19 November 2010.

“We have submitted all our documentation to WorkSafe for their review, and we believe we’ll soon be going into a very busy underground phase - there will most likely be no further opportunity for families to go underground. While I could see it was a stretch for some people, we felt it was important for us to offer this journey as part of our commitment to families,” Dave says.



Chief Operating Officer Dinghy Pattinson welcomes families to the mine site for the underground visit to the 170m barrier.

### What else is happening?

On the Agency [website](#), there are several recent weekly briefings to the Minister responsible, Hon Andrew Little; and correspondence between [WorkSafe](#) and the [Agency](#) - standard practice after inspectors visit the site or documents are lodged.

All the documentation regarding the Agency proceeding past the 170m barrier has now been furnished to the regulator, WorkSafe, who are in a position to judge our plans properly with the legislation and expert advice available to guide them. We will publish all that material on our website once WorkSafe has given us the go-ahead.

[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

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