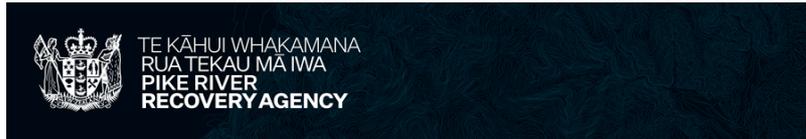


More progress from the Pike River Recovery team



A "lobster" attachment (the green bit) on the front of a drill rig at the Pike River Mine site

Getting to grips with operations

A new piece of equipment purchased from Australia is helping with the efficiency of bolting work underground at the Pike River Mine.

In mining terms, the new attachment to our Alfabs bolting rig is a "lobster". Named for its ability to grip the megabolts required for shoring up the roof and walls in the Hawera Fault area, the lobster attachment was shipped in from Australia and installed on the drill rig last week.

Each megabolt is 8.25 metres long, and weighs around 27kg. In the Hawera Fault zone, our underground teams are installing 240 x 8m megabolts.

As of the end of last week, the mine workers were at 2102m up the 2.3km drift (access tunnel). With the large amount of debris and the bolting work, the reconnaissance barrier is now moved in 6.5 metre increments.

All going to plan, they are hoping to reach the Rocsil Plug by the end of November.

The Pike River Recovery Agency team



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