

PRRA Staff Weekly Update # 4 – Friday 12 June 2020

Hi everyone

Welcome to the 4th edition of the Pike River Recovery Agency's weekly staff updates which includes information on uniting for the recovery from COVID-19 and also operational matters. Please forward any contributions to me that would be of interest to the team.

UPDATES FROM www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz



New Zealand is at Alert Level 1

The Government announced that New Zealand could safely move out of Alert Level 2 at 11:59pm on Monday 8 June.

At Alert Level 1, everyone can return without restriction to work, school, sports and domestic travel, and you can get together with as many people as you want.

Controls at the borders remain for those entering New Zealand, including health screening and testing for all arrivals, and mandatory 14 day managed quarantine or isolation.

As we unite to recover from the effects of COVID-19, it's still important that we keep the basic hygiene measures, including washing your hands and coughing or sneezing into your elbow.

We should all continue to keep track of where we've been and who we've seen to assist with rapid contact tracing if it is required. Businesses should help customers to keep track of where they've been by displaying the NZ COVID Tracer QR code poster.

We've changed now that New Zealand has moved down to Alert Level 1

While border restrictions remain in place, other rules and constraints on our day-to-day activities are no longer a requirement.

The COVID-19 pandemic still exists globally, even if it has been stamped out here in New Zealand. To keep COVID-19 at bay, we all need to keep practising good hygiene and following the golden rules of Alert Level 1.

As we return to life without restrictions, the impacts of COVID-19 will evolve. Our focus will need to shift from keeping ourselves safe from the virus to the economic and social recovery of New Zealand. That's why we are changing our focus — and our name — to Unite for the recovery.

The uniteforrecovery.govt.nz website is a central place for information about a range of support to help New Zealand recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

We will continue to update our website with programmes and information about services being provided by a range of central and local government agencies. We'll also provide details about ways you can contribute to New Zealand's recovery.

We've shown that we can do this. Now let's do it again. Let's get Kiwis back on their feet and thriving. Unite for the recovery.

Life at Alert Level 1

At Alert Level 1, everyone can return without restriction to work, school, sports and domestic travel, and you can get together with as many people as you want.

Border restrictions

Controls at the borders remain for those entering New Zealand, including health screening and testing for all arrivals, and mandatory 14 day managed quarantine or isolation.

Stay healthy

As we unite to recover from the effects of COVID-19, it's still important that we keep the basic hygiene measures, including washing your hands and coughing or sneezing into your elbow.

Keep track of where you've been

We should all continue to keep track of where we've been and who we've seen to assist with rapid contact tracing if it is required.

Businesses should help customers to keep track of where they've been by displaying the NZ COVID Tracer QR code poster.

The Golden Rules for everyone at Alert Level 1

1. If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise.
2. If you have cold or flu symptoms call your doctor or Healthline and make sure you get tested.
3. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
4. Sneeze and cough into your elbow, and regularly disinfect shared surfaces.
5. If you are told by health authorities to self-isolate you must do so immediately.
6. If you're concerned about your wellbeing or have underlying health conditions, work with your GP to understand how best to stay healthy.
7. Keep track of where you've been and who you've seen to help contact tracing if needed. Use the NZ COVID Tracer app as a handy way of doing this.
8. Businesses should help people keep track of their movements by displaying the Ministry of Health QR Code for contact tracing.
9. Stay vigilant. There is still a global pandemic going on. People and businesses should be prepared to act fast to step up Alert Levels if we have to.
10. People will have had different experiences over the last couple of months. Whatever you're feeling — it's okay. Be kind to others. Be kind to yourself.

Updates on COVID-19 cases on the Ministry of Health website

The Ministry of Health is continuing to publish updates on New Zealand's COVID-19 cases. Currently, there are no further health media conferences scheduled. The Ministry of Health is continuing to publish daily updates on New Zealand's COVID-19 cases, which you can find on its website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases>

AGENCY UPDATES

Health & Safety

The weekly operational mine site H&S committee meeting was held on Tuesday 9 June 2020. Items discussed included:

- Professional development - both crews have attended CABA refresher training this week and Crew A have completed training on safe work assessments,
- Safe work assessments (SWO) are on target for the month,
- Wet weather gear has been ordered for the mine workers, and
- The hazard to incident ratio is above target for the month.

The Health, Safety and Wellbeing steering committee will meet via teleconference on Monday 22 June 2020.

He Ārahitanga Pōtitanga Whānui | General Election Guidance 2020

Peter Hughes, State Services Commissioner, has published guidance which identifies common principles and obligations that will assist those who work in the State services during the lead-up to, and in the period immediately after, the 2020 general election.

Message from Peter Hughes:

"I have issued fresh guidance outlining the principles and processes to help public servants do the right thing and uphold the principle of political neutrality in the run up to the Election and immediately following the Election.

New Zealanders go to the polls on 19 September.

A general election is not only New Zealand's biggest community event, it is vital to our democratic form of government.

It's important to note upfront that public servants have the same rights to freedom of speech and political activity in their private lives as other New Zealanders. This is explained more in the guidance.

The guidance also covers the Government's right to govern in the pre-election period as there is no caretaker convention prior to elections in New Zealand.

You can read further guidance about government decision-making in the pre-election period, which starts on 19 June, in this Cabinet Office circular.

We as public servants have a crucial role in elections. It is our job to uphold the political neutrality of the public service.

I encourage all public servants to take the time to look over this guidance and think about how it applies to you and plan the conversations you need to have in your teams to prepare for the election.

We all have a role to play to ensure the integrity of our electoral process and the smooth transition between one term of government and the next."

Political neutrality obligations

In serving the government of the day, State servants must be impartial and politically neutral. Political neutrality is a constitutional convention that supports the Government's trust in the State services to work in an impartial way. Political neutrality helps to manage potential for conflict between the State services' policy advice role and the Government's decision-making and advocacy role.

The political neutrality convention applies to the State services at all times, including in relation to elections, by-elections and referendums. While State servants have the same rights of political expression as other members of the public, State servants must respect other people's rights and interests in the workplace. Chatting about politics or policy in a private conversation with interested colleagues is acceptable in general but more overt, politically partisan, conduct may not be. For example, it is not appropriate to:

- campaign for a political party or a candidate in the workplace
- provide work contact details to political parties
- engage with political parties while at work.

Acting responsibly means that State servants will advise their manager if they receive emails from political parties at work, and not respond to or forward emails from political parties to other staff or agencies.

State servants must treat everyone, including political parties, fairly and equally and avoid the perception of discrimination based on their political views or affiliations.

Public funds and publicly funded agency resources must not be used for political purposes. For example, using a work printer to copy political party material is not allowed.

Working in a politically neutral way means that State servants cannot work for, nor service, political entities such as party caucuses and caucus committees as part of their work as government officials. As a government official, they can only attend a caucus meeting of a political party represented in the House at the direction of, or with the consent of the Minister, and with the consent of their chief executive.

<https://ssc.govt.nz/our-work/parliamentary-election-2020/general-election-guidance-2020/>

From the Office (Wellington and Greymouth)

Another productive week operating under Alert Levels 2 and then 1 with most staff continuing to work remotely. Work completed this week includes: responding to several media inquiries, payroll processing and supplier invoice payment runs, preparing the meeting papers for next week's FRG weekly contact meeting with the Agency (now held via Zoom), advancing the internal audit work programme, starting to collect data for input into the SSC annual workforce survey, and developing the end of financial year work programme.

Next week planned activities include:

- FRG and Agency weekly contact meeting to be held via Zoom on Monday 15 June.
- Providing administrative support to the Minister as required.
- Internal audit work programme commences.
- Management meeting being held on 17 June.
- Support to the FRG Chair.

- Supplier payment run.
- Submitting the weekly report to the Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry – this report provides regular updates on the Agency’s progress with our work programme.

Re-entry and recovery operations – as at Thursday 11 June midnight

This has been another good week recovering the drift with the reconnaissance barrier at 765m as at 7.00am on Friday 12 June 2020. The atmosphere underground is normal and stable. New Zealand moved to Alert Level 1 on Tuesday 9 June 2020. Two shifts have been operating at the mine site over the past week while observing protocols for Alert Level 2 (Monday) and then Alert Level 1 from Tuesday onwards. During this time there have been no required unscheduled callouts to site and no security issues.

From an operational viewpoint this week achievements included:

- Ventilation and services advanced to 765m.
- Conveyor and belt structure removed up to 765m mark.
- Tell-tale installed at the 700 mark.
- Forensics completed to 765m.
- One of the military robots was recovered as an item of interest at the 759m mark (further information in section 3.4).
- BOC personnel were onsite completing scheduled maintenance on the nitrogen plant.
- CABA refresher training was completed for both crews.

Work planned from Friday 12 June onwards and the coming week includes:

- Electrical inspection of new Tell-Tales underground.
- Pull testing needs to be advanced to the current barrier from 653m (pull testing is a critical control to assess adequacy of existing support).
- First lot of roof bolting (other than spot bolts) outside of prescribed areas noted just in-by the 770m chainage due to torn / damaged mesh and exposed roof strata (note existing bolts still in place).
- Cycle of reconnaissance, forensics, services, ventilation, monitoring and communications will be advanced in 20m increments, as well as removing the conveyor structure, installing geotechnical tell-tale monitors as required and advancing the refuge chamber every 200m.

QUIZ

Answers to Quiz Questions from Friday 5 June 2020 (out of 10)

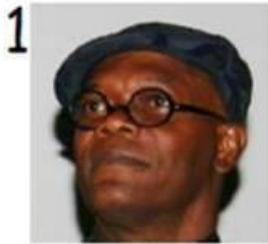
Picture Quiz

Can you identify the ten individuals named Sam, Samuel, Samantha or Sammy?

1. Samuel L. Jackson
2. Sam Faiers
3. Samantha Fox
4. Sammy Davis Jr.
5. Sam Smith
6. Sam Neill
7. Samuel Beckett
8. Samantha Mumba

9. Sam Mendes

10. Samantha Womack (Janus)



Today's Quiz Questions (out of 10)

A free quiz from <https://www.readymadepubquiz.com>

Please note down your answers and you can score yourself when the answers come out in the next weekly update. Please No Googling - Good luck!

Celebrity Statues picture quiz – Can you identify the famous people who have been made into statues?

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



Take care everyone and stay safe! Have a great weekend - **Go the Warriors!!**
Best regards
Michelle