



Partnership Agreement

between the

Stand With Pike Family Reference Group

and Te Kāhui Whakamana Rua Tekau mā Iwa Pike River Recovery

Agency

The Stand With Pike Family Reference Group seeks truth and justice for the families of the 29 miners who died in the Pike River Mining disaster.

The Agency has been tasked with assessing and, if possible, carrying out a manned re-entry and recovery of the Pike River Mine drift.

The parties wish to work together in the spirit of partnership to achieve the re-entry and recovery of the drift.

The partnership principles contained in this Agreement set out the basis for the parties to develop a trusted relationship based on fairness, respect and transparency.

Partnership

The parties agree to work together in good faith in accordance with the partnership principles contained in this Agreement in order to build and maintain a trusted relationship.

Stand With Pike Family Reference Group

The Stand With Pike Family Reference Group (FRG) has full and sole delegated authority from the overwhelming majority of the Pike River families (28 out of the 31 families) to represent them in all matters relating to and arising from the re-entry and recovery of the drift.

The Agency will not initiate any contact with a Pike River family about the re-entry or recovery of the drift, except through the FRG.

If a Pike River family contacts the Agency about a matter concerning the re-entry or recovery of the drift, the Agency will inform the FRG of the contact and the matters discussed, unless the family has requested the matter be treated confidentially, which will be pro-actively offered by the Agency.

Openness and transparency

The Agency's door is always open and the Agency welcomes any requests or queries from the FRG or any Pike River family at any time.

The Agency will keep the FRG fully informed of all plans and developments concerning the mine.

The Agency will ensure such information is provided to the FRG promptly to enable the FRG to decide on the most meaningful way it can participate in the process.

The Agency will ensure that information is provided to the FRG at the time and in the manner requested by the FRG, for example, information may be provided through regular meetings or briefings, in email updates or phone calls, or a combination of these and other methods.

The Agency will keep the FRG fully informed of all proposed meetings concerning the mine and the FRG will have the right to attend such meetings, unless the Agency informs the FRG there is a specific reason why they may not attend, in which case the Agency will provide a summary of any discussions or decisions taken at the meeting.

The FRG may share any information with the Pike River families and others, unless the FRG has been specifically advised by the Agency that the information is confidential.

The Agency acknowledges that it is a fundamental principle that the FRG may raise any matter with the Minister at whatever time and in whatever manner the FRG considers appropriate.

Decisions

The Agency will ensure that the FRG is aware of any advice it proposes to provide to the Minister concerning the mine, and provide the FRG with the opportunity to comment on that advice.

If the Agency and the FRG are unable to agree on the advice to be provided to the Minister, the Agency will ensure the FRG's views are separately identified in the advice to the Minister.

Media

The Agency and the FRG will consult each other regarding joint media statements.

The Agency and the FRG agree to alert each other to their media appearances and statements, ahead of time where practical, and to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that they do not misrepresent the position of the other party.

The Agency and the FRG will advise each other as soon as possible of any expected media stories concerning the mine to ensure neither of them are taken by surprise by any media requests for comment.

Support arrangements

The Agency agrees to support members of the FRG and their experts in respect of their reasonable costs of engagement with the Government, including any required travel.

The Agency recognises that the FRG is not currently resourced to easily maintain equal partnership, and will make best endeavours to accommodate the FRG operationally in this respect.

The FRG notes for the record that the principle of partnership is immensely valuable and should be encouraged as a model for governance more generally. However the FRG also notes that non-government partners in similar partnerships should be resourced sufficiently to provide for equal partnership between parties.

Review

The parties agree to review the terms of this partnership agreement 4 months after the date it is signed.

Dave Gawn

Chief Executive

Te Kāhui Whakamana Rua Tekau mā Iwa
Pike River Recovery Agency

Date:

Anna Osborne

Family Reference Group Chair

Stand With Pike
Family Reference Group

Date: