



Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy
Te Komihana a te Karauna mō te Parekura Ana Waro o te Awa o Pike

UNDER THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE PIKE
RIVER COAL MINE TRAGEDY**

MINUTE NO 5: PHASE THREE HEARING DATES

5 AUGUST 2011

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Hearing Dates

1. The Commission has decided that the Phase Three hearings should be staged in two week blocks commencing in mid-November. The hearing dates are:

Week One: 14—18 November 2011

Week Two: 21—25 November 2011

Week Three: 5—9 December 2011

Week Four: 12—16 December 2011

2. In addition, the Commission will sit on the days of 19, 20 and 21 December should the witnesses scheduled to be called in the November—December hearings not have been completed on time.

3. In 2012 there will be a further block of hearings:

Week Five: 7—10 February 2012

Week Six: 13—17 February 2012

Waitangi Day falls on 6 February 2012.

4. If required, further hearing weeks will be scheduled as soon as the need for them is apparent.

Phase Three Evidence

5. Evidence for Phase Three is to be filed with the Commission:

No later than 19 September 2011.

6. Recently Mr Richard Raymond, Counsel for the Families, wrote to Counsel Assisting the Commission suggesting that a coordinated approach was required in relation to the Phase Three evidence. Certain information was sought from the Commission to enable Counsel for the Families to determine from whom they should obtain and file witness statements. Counsel noted that there is scope for the duplication of evidence with reference to Phase Three, given that some potential witnesses have been spoken to by more than one of the participants in the Inquiry.

7. This letter prompted the Commission to the view that a conference of parties and interested persons should be convened with a view to achieving a more structured approach to the evidence for this phase. Interested persons who do not intend to participate in Phase Three need not attend. Nor is the attendance of witness/submitters at the conference necessary. Evidence from this group tends to be of a personal nature and does not carry the risk of duplication.

8. This conference will be held on Tuesday, 16 August 2011 at 11:00am in:

Poutama Room
Ground Floor
Archives New Zealand
10 Mulgrave Street
Thorndon
WELLINGTON

9. In advance of the conference parties and interested persons who propose to file evidence in relation to Phase Three are requested to file with the Commission a memorandum containing a draft Phase Three witness list, any further information considered relevant and the names of those attending the conference. Memoranda should be filed by Friday, 12 August 2011. Upon receipt the Commission will place memoranda on the secure website in lieu of individual service. The conference will also provide an opportunity to consider whether there is a logical sequence into which the subject matter of Phase Three may be divided for the purposes of the two week hearing blocks.

Produced by

The Pike River Royal Commission
P O Box 5846
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Dated 5 August 2011