



**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 7: PHASE THREE HEARINGS

5 OCTOBER 2011

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Phase Three Hearings

1. The hearing dates notified in Minute No 5 are confirmed. The subject matter of this phase will be divided as follows:

2011

14 - 18 November	External oversight of Health and Safety at the Mine.	(Issues 3.20 - 3.28)
21 - 25 November	Mine Systems.	(Issues 3.7 - 3.9)
5 - 9 December	Company Management.	(Issues 3.5 - 3.6)
12 - 16 December	Health and Safety Systems, Compliance and Impediments.	(Issues 3.10 - 3.14) (Issues 3.18 - 3.19)
	Employees/Contractors.	(Issues 3.15 - 3.17)

The days of 19, 20 and 21 December shall remain as reserve days.

2012

7 -10 February	The Immediate Cause of the Explosion.	(Issues 3.1 - 3.4)
13 - 17 February	Mine Systems.	(Issues 3.7 - 3.9)

2. This division was arrived at with a number of considerations in mind. The time limit for Department of Labour (DOL) prosecutions is 19 November 2011. The first hearing week in November will not be impacted by this factor. The Commission will arrange the witness list for week two, from persons who are not at risk of prosecution. Participants who hold concerns may elect not to file evidence until the DOL decisions are known. This consideration dictated that issues relating to company management, health and safety aspects and employees/contractors be left for the December hearings. The scheduling of a resumed hearing into mine systems in the week of 13 February 2012 reflects this same consideration.
3. Police prosecutions, if any, are not subject to a time limit. The advice which the Commission has received indicates that Police inquiries are yet to be completed. It is possible that prosecution decisions will not be made before the Commission is due to report. The Phase Three hearings cannot be staged in a manner which accommodates this possibility.

Phase Three Evidence dates

- November and December hearings No later than noon on 25 October 2011;
subject to:
- (a) DOL evidence for week one shall be filed earlier on a date to be settled between Counsel for the Department and Counsel Assisting; and
 - (b) Participants who are sensitive to the DOL prosecution decisions may file evidence by noon on 23 November.
- February hearings No later than noon on 19 December 2011.

Produced by

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Dated 5 October 2011