



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Pike River Royal Commission sets March date for Preliminary Hearing**

The Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy will hold a preliminary public hearing at the Greymouth High Court on Friday 11 March.

Chair of the Commission, Justice Graham Panckhurst, says the preliminary hearing is needed before substantive hearings can be held.

” The preliminary hearing will deal with our processes. It will bring legal counsel and other people together and set out how the Commission intends to pursue its inquiries. Evidence from witnesses will not be heard at this hearing, “Justice Panckhurst says.

Expressions of interest from persons or organisations who wish to give evidence to the Royal Commission close on 18 February. Expressions of interest can be made online at [www.royal.commission.govt.nz](http://www.royal.commission.govt.nz)

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