

**Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy**

**Te Komihana a te Karauna mö 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  15:**

**Application to reconvene hearings**

31 JULY 2012

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1. The commission has decided not to reconvene the Phase Three hearings. The brief reasons for that decision follow.
2. The purpose of the inquiry is not to determine individual legal rights and liabilities, but rather to establish what happened at the mine on 19 November 2010, why it happened and to make forward-looking recommendations. The practice of the commission was to control oral evidence by deciding in its discretion who was called at the hearings, and the extent of the oral evidence they gave. The commission received a volume of evidence, both written and oral, in response to the list of issues provided to participants at the commencement of the inquiry. In the commission’s view it has sufficient evidence to answer its terms of reference, including the contemporaneous mine documents for the period relevant to the tragedy. Hence, it does not believe a further hearing is necessary.
3. In relation to the new evidence filed since the submissions hearing in April 2012, the commission is satisfied that sufficient protections exist. An opportunity to respond to it by filing evidence in reply, and/or submissions, has been afforded. In the main the evidence concerns operational matters already covered by earlier evidence, including the contemporaneous records. Where the new evidence is adverse to the reputation of someone, and if an adverse finding is contemplated by the commission on the basis of that evidence, an adverse finding letter (as per Minute No. 13) will be sent to the affected party before the report is finalised.

Produced by

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Dated 31 July 2012