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Draft article for industry publications

Have your say on a new health and safety regime for mining

Consultation is underway on proposed changes to health and safety regulation in New Zealand's mining sector.

The Government has released a discussion document that proposes significant change to health and safety regulations for mining, in order to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy.

The proposed changes are aimed at:

- bringing health and safety in the New Zealand mining industry into line with international best practice
- helping to create a viable mining sector in New Zealand that the public will have confidence in.

The discussion document, a summary of the proposed changes, advice of public forums, and other information is available at www.mbie.govt.nz/about-us/consultation

Submissions can be made on line, by email or by post, and **close on 1 July 2013**.

The discussion document outlines regulatory proposals for improved mining hazard and risk management, increased training and qualifications, strengthened worker participation systems, and new emergency measures – all issues that the Royal Commission said needed to be addressed.