

WORKSAFE NEW ZEALAND OPERATIONAL EVALUATION

Adventure Activities Regulations – the ‘health check’

Between June and September 2020, WorkSafe undertook a cross-organisational evaluation of its operational performance as adventure activities regulator.

The work was a series of focused discussions and meetings and was referred to internally (and now externally) as ‘the Adventure Activities Health Check’.

The work resulted in a substantive issues, opportunities and recommended actions paper provided by a lead group to WorkSafe’s Executive Leadership Team (ELT). A formal ‘health check’ document was not created as a result of this work.

The ELT has accepted the findings outlined and agreed to all recommendations. Work has already begun to implement the recommendations with an expected completion in mid-2021.

Adventure activity operators are responsible for providing healthy and safe activities. Our job as the adventure activities regulator is to hold operators to their health and safety obligations. It is crucial work that gives confidence to activity users that the operators are meeting standards designed to ensure the safety of users and workers in the sector.

WorkSafe is accountable as the regulator too. We have to demonstrate that our way of regulating this sector is ensuring the best possible outcomes. This health check, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s targeted review of the regime itself have raised issues and opportunities that I have committed WorkSafe to addressing.

I am particularly focused on ensuring we build our leadership and strengthen our management of the regime.



Phil Parkes
Chief Executive

The results of our evaluation

Four documents are reproduced here.

The first is the ELT paper referred to above. The second and third are updates on issues provided to the Chief Executive. These documents were produced during COVID lockdown and were used as information papers for the Chief Executive, hence the draft status noted on them. The fourth is a briefing to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety referred to in document three.

Note: There are references throughout documents on this page to a report done by PwC (PriceWaterhouse Coopers).

That report was prepared for Simpson Grierson, who had been engaged to provide legal advice to WorkSafe arising from (ultimately unsuccessful) judicial review proceedings associated with the Whakaari/White Island. As such it is legally privileged and WorkSafe does not propose to release it