

14th December 2005

NZX / MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

Tourism Holdings Limited Waitomo Glowworm Caves Fire



In the early hours of Wednesday morning 14th December 2005 there was a major fire at the world famous Waitomo Glowworm Cave operated by Tourism Holdings. The fire destroyed the café / restaurant, souvenir shop, office accommodation, toilets and ticketing office.

The cause of the fire is being evaluated by the Fire and Police authorities. Fortunately there were no personnel injuries or damage to the interior of the Glowworm Cave. The Cave will open immediately upon the completion of the Fire and Police investigations which is anticipated to be within two days.

In the meantime tourists are being accommodated by visiting the other THL Cave operations of the recently opened Ruakuri Cave, the Aranui Glowworm Cave and the Legendary Blackwater Rafting.

Tourism Holdings Limited has comprehensive insurance to ensure the buildings destroyed are rebuilt and outside area restored as soon as possible.

Dennis Pickup, Managing Director of Tourism Holdings expressed appreciation and praise to the Fire and Police authorities and staff involved in restoring normality to the Waitomo Caves region so quickly after the fire. "We are thankful that no one, staff or tourists were injured or endangered as a consequence of this unfortunate fire".

Announcement authorised by:



Keith Smith
Chairman
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