

RIO TINTO PLC  
Form 424B3  
September 14, 2011  
Table of Contents

**The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.**

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)

(To Base Prospectus dated June 21, 2011)

Registration No. 333-175037

## Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited

U.S.\$            % Notes due 2016

U.S.\$            % Notes due 2021

U.S.\$            5.200% Notes due 2040

Fully and unconditionally guaranteed by

Rio Tinto plc

and

Rio Tinto Limited

The U.S.\$            notes due 2016 (the 2016 notes ) will bear interest at            % per year. Interest on the 2016 notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on  
and            of each year, beginning on            ,            . The 2016 notes will mature at 100% of their principal amount on            , 2016.

The U.S.\$            notes due 2021 (the 2021 notes ) will bear interest at            % per year. Interest on the 2021 notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on  
and            of each year, beginning on            ,            . The 2021 notes will mature at 100% of their principal amount on            , 2021.

The U.S.\$            notes due 2040 (the 2040 notes and together with the 2016 notes and the 2021 notes, the notes ) will bear interest at 5.200% per year. Interest on  
the 2040 notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on May 2 and November 2 of each year, beginning on November 2, 2011. The 2040 notes will mature at  
100% of their principal amount on November 2, 2040.

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

The 2040 notes offered hereby constitute a further issuance of the U.S.\$500,000,000 principal amount of the 5.200% notes due 2040 that were issued on November 2, 2010 and the U.S.\$300,000,000 principal amount of the 5.200% notes due 2040 that were issued on May 20, 2011 (the Existing 2040 notes). The 2040 notes will form a single series with the Existing 2040 notes and will have the same terms other than the initial offering price. Immediately upon settlement, the 2040 notes will have the same CUSIP number and will trade interchangeably with the Existing 2040 notes. Upon completion of this offering, U.S.\$ of the 5.200% notes due 2040 will be outstanding.

The notes and the guarantees will be senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all other present and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

Each series of notes will be redeemable at our option or at the option of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, in whole or in part, at any time at the redemption price determined in the manner described in this prospectus supplement. We may also redeem each series of notes at the principal amount of the notes being redeemed plus accrued interest to the date of redemption upon the occurrence of certain tax events described in this prospectus.

Application will be made to list the notes on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

	2016 Notes		2021 Notes		2040 Notes	
	Per Note	Total	Per Note	Total	Per Note	Total
Price to public <sup>(1)</sup>	%	U.S.\$	%	U.S.\$	%	U.S.\$
Underwriting discount and commissions	%	U.S.\$	%	U.S.\$	%	U.S.\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us <sup>(2)</sup>	%	U.S.\$	%	U.S.\$	%	U.S.\$

Notes:

- (1) Plus accrued interest from , 2011 if settlement occurs after that date and plus, in the case of the 2040 notes, additional accrued interest of U.S.\$ for the period from May 2, 2011 to, but not including, , 2011.
- (2) See Underwriting beginning on page S-27 of this prospectus supplement.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company ( DTC ), against payment in New York, New York, on or about , 2011. Beneficial interests in the notes will be shown on, and transfers thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC and its direct and indirect participants, including Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme* ( Clearstream, Luxembourg ) and Euroclear Bank SA/NV ( Euroclear ).

**Barclays Capital**

**Joint Bookrunners**  
**BNP PARIBAS**

**Morgan Stanley**

**Citigroup**

**HSBC**

**SOCIETE GENERALE**

The date of this prospectus supplement is \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS  
PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT</u>	S-3
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	S-3
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-4
<u>THE OFFERING</u>	S-5
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-8
<u>RECENT DEVELOPMENTS</u>	S-15
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-17
<u>SUMMARY HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA</u>	S-18
<u>CAPITALIZATION AND INDEBTEDNESS OF RIO TINTO</u>	S-21
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	S-22
<u>DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEED NOTES</u>	S-23
<u>UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION</u>	S-26
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	S-27
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-31

**BASE PROSPECTUS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>ENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL LIABILITIES</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>RIO TINTO PLC AND RIO TINTO LIMITED</u>	4
<u>RIO TINTO FINANCE (USA) LIMITED</u>	6
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	7
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEED DEBT SECURITIES</u>	9
<u>CLEARANCE AND SETTLEMENT</u>	25
<u>TAXATION</u>	30
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	46
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	48
<u>EXPERTS</u>	48

You should only rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus dated June 21, 2011 (the "base prospectus") and any related free writing prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in the prospectus supplement, the base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and any prospects may have changed since those dates.

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

This document is in two parts. The first part is the prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the notes and also adds to and updates information contained in the base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in the prospectus supplement and the base prospectus. The second part, the base prospectus, provides more general information about debt securities we may offer from time to time. When we refer to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. If the description of the notes in the prospectus supplement differs from the description in the base prospectus, the description in the prospectus supplement supersedes the description in the base prospectus.

The base prospectus contains important information regarding this offering, which is not contained in the prospectus supplement. You are urged to read the base prospectus and the prospectus supplement in full.

In this prospectus supplement, the terms we, our and us refer to Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited (ABN 84 062 129 551). We refer to Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited (ABN 96 004 458 404), taken together, as Rio Tinto. We refer to Rio Tinto plc, Rio Tinto Limited and their subsidiaries, taken together, as the Rio Tinto Group or the Group. Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited is offering debt securities using this prospectus supplement. Both Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited act as the guarantors for offerings by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited using this prospectus supplement.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We incorporate by reference the documents below filed or furnished with the SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act).

- (i) Annual Report on Form 20-F of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010 filed with the SEC on March 15, 2011;
- (ii) The report on 6-K filed with the SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited on August 26, 2011 containing the unaudited condensed interim financial report of the Rio Tinto Group for the period ended June 30, 2011;
- (iii) any reports on Form 6-K filed or furnished by Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited pursuant to the Exchange Act that expressly state that we incorporate them by reference; and
- (iv) any reports filed under Section 13(a), 13(c) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

You can obtain copies of any of the documents incorporated by reference through Rio Tinto or the SEC. Documents incorporated by reference are available without charge, excluding all exhibits unless an exhibit has been specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You may obtain Rio Tinto documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, at no cost, by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Rio Tinto Limited	Rio Tinto plc
Level 33	2 Eastbourne Terrace
120 Collins Street	London W2 6LG
Melbourne, Victoria 3000	United Kingdom
Australia	011-44-20-781-2000

Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

011-61-3-9283-3333

S-3

**Table of Contents**

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus supplement contains and incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and business of the Rio Tinto Group. These statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act ) and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. The words intend, aim, project, anticipate, estimate, plan, believe, expect, may, should, will or similar expressions, commonly identify such forward-looking statements.

Examples of forward-looking statements contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement include those regarding estimated ore reserves, anticipated production or construction dates, costs, outputs and productive lives of assets or similar factors. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors set forth in this document that are beyond the Group's control. For example, future ore reserves will be based in part on market prices that may vary significantly from current levels. These may materially affect the timing and feasibility of particular developments. Other factors include the ability to produce and transport products profitably, demand for our products, the effect of foreign currency exchange rates on market prices and operating costs, and activities by governmental authorities, such as changes in taxation or regulation, and political uncertainty.

In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, actual results could be materially different from projected future results expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements which speak only as at the date of this prospectus supplement. Except as required by applicable regulations or by law, the Group does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information or future events. The Group cannot guarantee that its forward-looking statements will not differ materially from actual results.

**Table of Contents**

**THE OFFERING**

*The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the base prospectus. It may not contain all information that you should consider before investing in the notes. You should read "Description of Guaranteed Notes" beginning on page S-23 of this prospectus supplement for more detailed information about the notes.*

**Issuer**

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited

**Notes Offered**

U.S.\$           % notes due 2016

U.S.\$           % notes due 2021

U.S.\$           5.200% notes, due 2040, which will form a single series with the U.S.\$800,000,000 principal amount of the Existing 2040 notes

**Guarantees**

Full and unconditional guarantees of the principal, interest, premium, if any, and any other additional amounts payable in respect of the notes are given by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited.

**Stated Maturity**

2016 notes:           , 2016

2021 notes:           , 2021

2040 notes: November 2, 2040

**Principal Amount of Notes Being Issued**

2021 notes: U.S.\$

2016 notes: U.S.\$

2040 notes: U.S.\$

**Issue Price**

2016 notes:           %

2021 notes:           %

2040 notes:           % plus accrued interest of U.S.\$           for the period from May 2, 2011 to, but not including,           , 2011

**Ranking**

The notes and guarantees are not secured by any of our or Rio Tinto's respective property or assets and will rank equally with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. Since Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are holding companies and currently conduct their operations through subsidiaries, payments on the guarantees are effectively subordinated to the other liabilities of those subsidiaries.

**Interest Rate**

2016 notes:           %

2021 notes:           %



Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

2040 notes: 5.200%

S-5

---

**Table of Contents**

**Date Interest Starts Accruing**

2016 notes: , 2011

2021 notes: , 2011

2040 notes: May 2, 2011

**Interest Payment Dates**

2016 notes: and of each year, commencing ,

2021 notes: and of each year, commencing ,

2040 notes: May 2 and November 2 of each year, commencing November 2, 2011

**First Interest Payment Date**

2016 notes: ,

2021 notes: ,

2040 notes: November 2, 2011

**Optional Make-Whole Redemption**

Each series of notes will be redeemable at our option or at the option of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited, in whole or in part, at any time. See Description of Guaranteed Notes Optional Make-Whole Redemption beginning on page S-23 of this prospectus supplement. Upon redemption, we will pay a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed and (ii) as certified to the trustee by us or Rio Tinto, the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the relevant series of notes (excluding any interest accrued as of the date of redemption) discounted to the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate (as defined in this prospectus supplement) plus a spread of basis points in the case of the 2016 notes, basis points in the case of the 2021 notes and 20 basis points in the case of the 2040 notes, together with accrued interest on the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed to the date of redemption. The Comparable Treasury Issue for purposes of the definition contained in Description of Guaranteed Notes Optional Make-Whole Redemption will be the U.S. Treasury security selected by the quotation agents as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed.

**Tax Redemption**

In the event of various tax law changes and other limited circumstances that require us to pay additional amounts as described in the base prospectus on page 17 under Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities Special Situations Payment of Additional Amounts , we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited may call all, but not less than all, of the notes of each series for redemption at 100% of their aggregate principal amount plus accrued interest to the date of redemption.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Form of Notes; Clearance and Settlement**

We will issue the notes in fully registered form. The notes will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a nominee of DTC and deposited with The Bank of New York Mellon, as depository. You will hold a beneficial interest in the notes through DTC in book-entry form. Indirect holders trading their beneficial interest in the notes through DTC must trade in DTC's same-day funds settlement system and pay in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading through Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg will occur in the ordinary way following the applicable rules and operating procedures of Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg.

### **Denomination**

The notes will be issued in minimum denominations of U.S.\$2,000 and integral multiples of U.S.\$1,000 in excess thereof.

### **Further Issues**

We may from time to time without your consent create and issue further notes having the same terms and conditions as any series of notes so that the further issue is consolidated and forms a single series with such series of notes, provided that such further issue constitutes a qualified reopening for U.S. federal income tax purposes or such further notes are issued with not more than a de minimis amount of original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

### **Trustee and Paying Agent**

The Bank of New York Mellon

### **Listing**

Application will be made to list the notes on the New York Stock Exchange.

### **Governing Law**

The indenture, the notes and the guarantees will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

### **Use of Proceeds**

We expect to receive net proceeds (after underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses) from this offering of approximately U.S.\$ . We intend to use the net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

### **Risk Factors**

You should carefully consider all the information in this prospectus supplement and in the base prospectus (including the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus) and, in particular, the risks described under Risk Factors beginning on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement before deciding to invest in the notes.

### **CUSIP**

2016 notes:

2021 notes:

2040 notes: 767201 ALO

### **ISIN**

Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

2016 notes:

2021 notes:

2040 notes: US 767201 AL06

S-7

---

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in the notes involves risks. Prior to making a decision about investing, you should carefully consider, among other matters, the following risk factors, as well as those incorporated by reference in other filings we may make from time to time with the SEC.*

**Risks relating to Rio Tinto**

***Commodity prices and global demand for the Group's products are expected to remain uncertain, which could affect the Group's business***

Commodity prices and demand for the Group's products are cyclical and strongly influenced by world economic conditions, particularly with respect to key customers, in the U.S. and Asia (notably China). There is potential volatility in short to medium term commodity prices due to persistent economic imbalances. The Group's normal policy is to sell its products at prevailing market prices and not to enter into price hedging arrangements. The recent improvement in commodity prices and demand for the Group's products may not remain as strong, which would have an impact on Group revenues, earnings, cash flows, asset values and growth.

***Continued growth in demand for the Group's products in China could be affected by future developments in that country***

The Group has signed agreements with almost 50% of its iron ore customers in Asia for pricing on a quarterly basis. This is a shift away from the previous annual benchmark pricing. Sales are being made to other iron ore customers on the same basis.

If a major economic downturn were to occur in China impacting the demand and price for iron ore or the Group's other products, or if Chinese customers source such products from elsewhere, the Group's business, financial condition and prospects could be affected.

***Rio Tinto is exposed to fluctuations in exchange rates that could affect its overall business results***

The U.S. dollar is the currency in which the great majority of the Group's sales are determined. It is also the most appropriate currency for holding surplus cash, financing its operations, and presenting its external and internal results. Although many costs are incurred in U.S. dollars, significant costs are influenced by the local currencies of the countries where the Group operates, principally the Australian dollar, Canadian dollar and Euro. The Group's normal policy is to avoid hedging arrangements relating to changes in foreign exchange rates. Appreciation in the value of these currencies against the U.S. dollar or prolonged periods of exchange rate volatility may adversely affect the Group's business results.

***Political, legal and commercial changes in the places where the Group operates could affect the Group's reputation, future development opportunities, and/or the viability of its operations***

The Group has operations in jurisdictions with varying degrees of political, legal and commercial stability. Commercial instability in some jurisdictions can be influenced by bribery and corruption in their various guises. Political and administrative change, policy reform, and changes in law or government regulation can result in expropriation or nationalization. Renegotiation or nullification of existing agreements, leases and permits; changes in fiscal policies (including increased taxes or royalty rates); changes in government ownership of operations; currency restrictions; increased regulation and significantly increased costs or impediments to operation are also possible consequences. Such consequences could have an adverse effect on the profitability, the ability to finance or, in extreme cases, the viability of an operation.

Political instability and uncertainty or government changes to the fiscal terms covering the Group's operations may discourage future investments in certain jurisdictions. This may have an adverse impact on the Group's ability to access new assets, potentially reducing future growth opportunities.

---

**Table of Contents**

***Community disputes in the countries and territories in which the Group operates could affect the viability of its operations or its reputation***

Some of the Group's current and potential operations are located in or near communities that may regard the operation as being detrimental to their environmental, economic or social circumstances. Community expectations are typically complex, with the potential for multiple inconsistent stakeholder views that may be difficult to resolve. Stakeholder opinion and community acceptance can be impacted by external events beyond the Group's control, including events that may occur in related industries or similar operations outside of the Group and events relating to the local, regional or national affairs of the places where the Group operates. Furthermore our operations may be a focus for civil unrest or criminal activity. Community reaction could have an adverse impact on the cost, profitability, and ability to finance or even the viability of an operation. Such events could lead to disputes with national or local governments or with local communities and give rise to reputational damage. If the Group's operations are delayed or shut down as a result of political and community instability, its revenue growth may be constrained and the long term value of its business could be adversely impacted.

***The Group's land and resource tenure could be disputed resulting in disruption to the operation or development of a resource***

The Group operates in several countries where title to land and rights in respect of land and resources (including indigenous title) may be unclear and may lead to disputes over resource development. Such disputes can be protracted and costly to resolve, could disrupt or delay relevant mining projects, impede the Group's ability to develop new mining properties, and may have an adverse effect on the Group's results of operations or its prospects.

***Changes in the cost and/or interruptions in the supply of energy, water, fuel or other key inputs could adversely affect the economic viability of the Group's operations***

The Group's operations are resource intensive and, as a result, its costs and net earnings may be adversely affected by the availability or cost of energy, water, fuel or other key inputs. If the prices of key inputs rise significantly more than expected, or if the Group experiences interruptions in, or constraints on, its supply of key inputs, the Group's costs could increase and its results could be adversely affected.

***The Group's business and growth prospects may be negatively affected by reductions in its capital expenditure program***

The Group requires substantial capital to invest in greenfield and brownfield projects, and to extend the life and capacity of its existing operations. If significant variations in commodity prices or demand for its products occur, the Group may reduce its capital expenditure, which may negatively impact the timing of its growth and future prospects.

With the volatility of the commodity markets, the Group's ability to benefit from improvements may be constrained by earlier capital expenditure restrictions and the long term value of its business could be adversely impacted.

***The Group's exploration and development of new projects might be unsuccessful, expenditures may not be fully recovered and depleted ore reserves may not be replaced***

The Group develops new mining properties and expands its existing operations as a means of generating shareholder value. The Group seeks to identify new orebodies and mining properties through its exploration programme and has also undertaken the development or expansion of other major operations. Exploration is not always successful, moreover there is a high degree of competition for opportunities to develop such orebodies.

---

## **Table of Contents**

Certain competitors, have access to significant resources and may be motivated by political or other non economic factors. The Group may be unable to find willing and suitable joint venture partners to share the cost of developing large projects. There is no assurance, therefore, that the Group's investment in exploration and project development will be recouped, or that depleted ore reserves will be replaced.

### ***Failure of the Group to make or successfully integrate acquisitions, or to complete divestment agreements, could have an adverse effect on the business and results of operations***

Business combinations entail a number of risks including the effective integration of acquisitions (including the realization of synergies), significant one time write-offs or restructuring charges, and unanticipated costs and liabilities. The Group may also be liable for the past acts, omissions or liabilities of companies, businesses or properties that it has acquired, which may be unforeseen or greater than anticipated. In addition, the Group may retain liabilities for divested entities if the buyer fails to honour all commitments.

### ***The Group's reported results could be adversely affected by the impairment of assets and goodwill***

An asset impairment charge may result from the occurrence of unexpected adverse events that impact the Group's expected performances. In accordance with IFRS, the Group does not amortize goodwill but rather tests it annually for impairment: such impairments cannot be reversed. Other long lived assets are tested when impairment indicators exist.

The Group will continue to test goodwill and may, in the future, record additional impairment charges. This could result in the recognition of impairment provisions (which are non cash items) that could be significant and could have an adverse effect on the Group's reported results.

### ***Estimates of ore reserves are based on many assumptions and changes in the assumptions could lead to reported ore reserves being restated***

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating ore reserves including subjective judgments and determinations based on available geological, technical, contract and economic information. Assumptions that are valid at the time of estimation may change significantly when new information becomes available. Changes in the forecast prices of commodities, exchange rates, production costs or recovery rates may result in some reserves ceasing to be economically viable or others in becoming viable. Ultimately this may result in the reserves needing to be restated. Such changes in reserves could also affect depreciation and amortization rates, asset carrying values, deferred stripping calculations and provisions for close down, restoration and environmental clean up costs.

### ***Labor disputes could lead to lost production and/or increased costs***

Some of the Group's employees, including employees in non managed operations, are represented by labor unions under various collective labor agreements. The Group may not be able satisfactorily to renegotiate agreements when they expire and may face tougher negotiations or higher wage demands. In addition, existing labor agreements may not prevent a strike or work stoppage, which could have an adverse effect on the Group's earnings, financial condition, and reputation.

### ***Some of the Group's technologies are unproven and failures could adversely impact costs and/or productivity***

The Group has invested in and implemented information systems and operational initiatives including new technologies. Some aspects of these technologies are unproven and the eventual operational outcome or viability cannot be assessed with certainty. The costs, productivity, value in securing business opportunities and other benefits from these initiatives, and the consequent effects on the Group's future earnings and financial results, may vary from expectations. Failure of the Group's technology systems to realize the anticipated benefits could result in increased costs, interruptions to supply continuity, failure to realize production or growth plans, or some other adverse effect on operational performance.

---

**Table of Contents**

***The Group's operations are vulnerable to natural disasters, operating difficulties, health, safety or environmental incidents and infrastructure constraints, not all of which are covered by insurance, which could have an impact on its productivity and reputation***

Mining, smelting and refining operations are vulnerable to natural events, including earthquakes, drought, floods, fire, storms and the possible effects of climate change. Operating difficulties could be experienced such as unexpected geological variations that could result in significant ground or containment failure. The Group's operations involve chemicals and other substances under high temperature and pressure, with the potential for fire, explosion or other loss of control of the process, leading to a release of hazardous materials. This could occur by accident or a breach of operating standards, and could result in a significant incident. Any of these events could affect the Group's reputation, and the costs and viability of its operations for indeterminate periods.

The Group has extensive health, safety, environment and community policies and standards in place. Despite these, it remains possible that a health, safety, environment or community incident could occur that may adversely impact the Group's reputation, earnings or cash flows.

The Group requires reliable roads, rail networks, ports, power sources and power transmission facilities, water supplies and information technology systems to access and conduct its operations. The availability and cost of infrastructure affects capital and operating costs, and the maintenance of planned levels of production and sales. In particular, the Group transports a large proportion of its products by sea. Limitations, or interruptions in, rail or shipping capacity at any port, including as a result of third parties gaining access to the Group's integrated infrastructure, could impede the Group's ability to deliver its products on time. This could have an adverse effect on the Group's business and results of operations.

The Group uses an extensive information technology system and infrastructure. A significant failure of major parts of the system or malicious actions could result in significant interruption that could affect the Group's reputation and operating results.

The Group's insurance does not cover every potential risk associated with its operations. Adequate coverage at reasonable rates is not always obtainable. In addition, the Group's insurance may not fully cover its liability or the consequences of any business interruptions such as weather events, equipment failure or labor dispute. The occurrence of a significant event not fully covered by insurance could have an adverse effect on the Group's business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

***The Group may be exposed to major failures in the supply chain for specialist equipment and materials***

Rio Tinto operates within a complex supply chain depending on suppliers of raw materials, services, equipment and infrastructure to ensure its mines and process plants can operate, and on providers of logistics to ensure products are delivered. Failure of significant components of this supply chain due to factors such as business failure, or serious operational factors, could have an adverse effect on the Group's business and results of operations.

***Joint ventures and other strategic partnerships may not be successful and non managed projects and operations may not comply with the Group's standards, which may adversely affect its reputation and the value of such projects and operations***

The Group participates in several joint venture arrangements and it may enter into further joint ventures. Although the Group has sought to protect its interests, existing and future joint ventures necessarily involve risks. Whether or not the Group holds majority interests or maintains operational control in its joint ventures, its partners may:

have economic or business interests or goals that are inconsistent with, or opposed to, those of the Group;

exercise veto rights to block actions that the Group believes are in its or the joint venture's best interests;



---

**Table of Contents**

take action contrary to the Group's policies or objectives with respect to its investments; or

be unable or unwilling to fulfil their obligations under the joint venture or other agreements, such as contributing capital to expansion or maintenance projects.

In addition, failure of a joint venture partner may result in unanticipated losses to the Group. Where projects and operations are controlled and managed by the Group's partners, the Group may provide expertise and advice but it has limited control with respect to compliance with its standards and objectives. Improper management or ineffective policies, procedures or controls could adversely affect the value of related non managed projects and operations and, by association, damage the Group's reputation thereby harming the Group's other operations and access to new assets.

***Increased regulation of greenhouse gas emissions could adversely affect the Group's cost of operations***

Rio Tinto's operations are energy intensive and depend heavily on fossil fuels. There is increasing regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, progressive introduction of carbon emissions trading mechanisms and tighter emission reduction targets, in numerous jurisdictions in which the Group operates. These are likely to raise energy and production costs to a material degree over the next few decades. Regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdictions of the Group's major customers and suppliers as well as in relation to international shipping could also have an adverse effect on the demand for the Group's products.

***The Group depends on the continued services of key personnel***

The Group's ability to maintain its competitive position and to implement its business strategy is dependent on the services of key engineering, managerial, financial, commercial, marketing and processing people. Loss or diminution in the services of key employees, particularly as a result of an inability to attract and retain staff, or the Group not maintaining a competitive remuneration structure, could have an adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Competition for experienced people with international engineering, mining, metallurgy and geological expertise is high, due to a small pool of individuals against medium to high demand. This may affect the Group's ability to retain its existing senior management, marketing and technical personnel and to attract qualified personnel on appropriate terms. Similar competition may be felt by the Group's key contractors and equipment suppliers that, in turn, could affect the Group's expansion plans.

***The Group's costs of close down, restoration, and rehabilitation could be higher than expected due to unforeseen changes in legislation, standards and techniques, or underestimated costs***

Close down and restoration costs include the dismantling and demolition of infrastructure and the remediation of land disturbed during the life of mining and operations. Estimated costs are provided for over the life of each operation and updated annually but the provisions might prove to be inadequate due to changes in legislation, standards and the emergence of new restoration techniques. Furthermore the expected timing of expenditure could change significantly due to changes in commodity prices that might curtail or extend the life of an operation. Total provisions at December 31, 2010 amounted to U.S.\$8,602 million as set out in note 27 to the 2010 Financial statements, which are included in the Annual Report on Form 20-F of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. These provisions could prove insufficient compared to the actual cost of restoration, or the cost of remediating or compensating for damage beyond the site boundary. Any underestimated or unidentified close down, restoration and environmental rehabilitation costs could have an adverse effect on the Group's reputation as well as its asset values, earnings and cash flows.

---

**Table of Contents**

***Health, safety, environment and other regulations, standards and stakeholder expectations evolve over time and unforeseen changes could have an adverse effect on the Group's earnings, cash flows and reputation***

Rio Tinto operates in an industry that is subject to numerous health, safety and environmental laws, regulations and standards as well as community and stakeholder expectations. The Group is subject to extensive governmental regulations in all jurisdictions in which it operates. Operations are subject to general and specific regulations governing mining and processing, land tenure and use, environmental requirements (including site specific environmental licences, permits and statutory authorizations), workplace health and safety, social impacts, trade and export, corporations, competition, access to infrastructure, foreign investment and taxation. Some operations are conducted under specific agreements with respective governments and associated acts of parliament but unilateral variations could diminish or even remove such rights. Furthermore, community and stakeholder expectations change over time. Evolving regulatory standards and stakeholder expectations can result in litigation and/or increased costs, or in extreme cases threaten the viability of an operation. This may impact on the reputation of the Group (including in circumstances where the underlying issue is not material to the Group). All of these matters may have an adverse effect on earnings and cash flows.

**Risks relating to the notes**

***Since Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are holding companies and currently conduct their operations through subsidiaries, your right to receive payments on the guarantees is subordinated to the other liabilities of their subsidiaries***

Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are organized as holding companies, and substantially all of their operations are carried on through subsidiaries. Their principal source of income is the dividends and distributions they receive from their subsidiaries. The ability of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited to meet their financial obligations is dependent upon the availability of cash flows from their domestic and foreign subsidiaries and affiliated companies through dividends, intercompany advances, management fees and other payments. These subsidiaries and affiliated companies are not required to and may not be able to pay dividends or make distributions to Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited. Claims of the creditors of the subsidiaries of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited have priority as to the assets of such subsidiaries over the claims of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited. Consequently, holders of notes guaranteed by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are structurally subordinated to the prior claims of the creditors of subsidiaries of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited.

In addition, some of Rio Tinto's subsidiaries are subject to laws restricting the amount of dividends they may pay. For example, these laws may prohibit dividend payments when net assets fall below subscribed share capital, when the subsidiary lacks available profits or when the subsidiary fails to meet certain capital and reserve requirements. English and Australian law prohibits those subsidiaries incorporated in the United Kingdom and Australia, respectively, from paying dividends unless these payments are made out of distributable profits. These profits consist of accumulated, realized profits which have not been previously utilized by distribution or capitalization, less accumulated, realized losses which have not been previously written off in a reduction or reorganization of capital duly made. Other statutory and general law obligations also affect the ability of directors of Rio Tinto's subsidiaries to declare dividends and the ability of Rio Tinto's subsidiaries to make payments to Rio Tinto on account of intercompany loans.

***Since the notes are unsecured, your right to receive payments may be adversely affected***

The notes that we are offering will be unsecured. If we default on the notes or Rio Tinto defaults on the guarantees, or after bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization, then, to the extent that we or Rio Tinto have granted security over our or Rio Tinto's assets, the assets that secure our or Rio Tinto's debts will be used to satisfy the obligations under that secured debt before we or Rio Tinto could make payment on the notes or the guarantees. There may only be limited assets available to make payments on the notes or the guarantees in the event of an acceleration of the notes. If there is not enough collateral to satisfy the obligations of the secured debt, then the remaining amounts on the secured debt would share equally with all unsubordinated unsecured indebtedness.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***We may incur substantially more debt in the future***

We may incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, including in connection with future acquisitions, some or all of which may be secured by our assets. The terms of the notes will not limit the amount of indebtedness we may incur. Any such incurrence of additional indebtedness could exacerbate the risks that holders of the notes now face.

### ***The notes lack a developed public market***

There can be no assurance regarding the future development of a market for the notes or the ability of holders of the notes to sell their notes or the price at which such holders may be able to sell their notes. If such a market were to develop, the notes could trade at prices that may be higher or lower than the initial offering price depending on many factors, including, among other things, prevailing interest rates, our operating results and the market for similar notes. The underwriters may make a market in the notes as permitted by applicable laws and regulations. However, the underwriters are not obligated to do so, and any such market-making activities with respect to the notes may be discontinued at any time without notice. Therefore, there can be no assurance as to the liquidity of any trading market for the notes or that an active public market for the notes will develop. See Underwriting .

### ***Our credit ratings may not reflect all risks of an investment in the notes***

The credit ratings ascribed to us and the notes are intended to reflect our ability to meet our payment obligations in respect of the notes, and may not reflect the potential impact of all risks related to structure and other factors on the value of the notes. In addition, actual or anticipated changes in our credit ratings may generally be expected to affect the market value of the notes.

### ***If we default on the notes, or if Rio Tinto defaults on the guarantees, your right to receive payments on the guarantees may be adversely affected by English or Australian insolvency laws***

Rio Tinto plc is incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. Accordingly, insolvency proceedings with respect to Rio Tinto plc would be likely to proceed under, and be governed by, English insolvency law. The procedural and substantive provisions of English insolvency laws generally are more favorable to secured creditors than comparable provisions of United States law. These provisions afford debtors and unsecured creditors only limited protection from the claims of secured creditors and it will generally not be possible for us, Rio Tinto or other unsecured creditors to prevent or delay the secured creditors from enforcing their security to repay the debts due to them.

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited and Rio Tinto Limited are incorporated under the laws of Australia and, therefore, insolvency proceedings with respect to them would be likely to proceed under, and be governed by, Australian insolvency law. The procedural and substantive provisions of Australian insolvency laws are also generally more favorable to secured creditors than comparable provision of United States law. These provisions afford debtors and unsecured creditors only limited protection from the claims of secured creditors and it will generally not be possible for us, Rio Tinto or other unsecured creditors to prevent or delay the secured creditors from enforcing their security to repay the debts due to them.

**Table of Contents**

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Coal & Allied proposal**

On August 8, 2011, Coal & Allied Industries Limited ( Coal & Allied ), one of the major coal producers in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales, announced that Rio Tinto had made an indicative, conditional, incomplete and non-binding proposal, under which Rio Tinto and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd ( Mitsubishi Development ), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation, would acquire all of the shares in Coal & Allied they do not already hold under a joint takeover.

On August 26, 2011, Coal & Allied announced that it had executed a scheme implementation agreement with Hunter Valley Resources Pty Ltd. ( Hunter Valley Resources ), a bid vehicle jointly owned by Rio Tinto and Mitsubishi Development. Pursuant to the agreement, Rio Tinto and Mitsubishi Development, via the jointly owned bid vehicle, would acquire all of the shares in Coal & Allied that they do not currently own under a Scheme of Arrangement (the Scheme ). The Scheme is subject to a number of conditions, including Coal & Allied shareholder approvals and regulatory clearance.

The committee of Coal & Allied directors formed to consider the initial proposal from Rio Tinto unanimously recommended that Coal & Allied shareholders vote in favor of the proposed Scheme, subject to an independent expert concluding that the Scheme was in the best interests of Coal & Allied minority shareholders and there being no superior proposal.

Under the proposed Scheme, Coal & Allied shareholders would receive cash consideration of A\$125 per share, a A\$3 increase when compared to consideration of A\$122 per share announced on August 8, 2011.

If the Scheme is successful, the aggregate direct and indirect interests in Coal & Allied held by Rio Tinto and Mitsubishi Development would increase to 80% and 20%, respectively. Rio Tinto currently owns 75.7% of Coal & Allied and Mitsubishi Development currently owns 10.2% of Coal & Allied.

***Australian carbon tax proposal***

On July 10, 2011, the Australian Government unveiled its carbon tax proposal. If the carbon tax proposal becomes law, from July 1, 2012 carbon emissions, including emissions from Rio Tinto s mining operations, will require a permit, with an initial price of A\$23.00 per ton of carbon emitted. From July 1, 2015, a market mechanism will set the carbon price with a cap and floor to limit price volatility.

Rio Tinto acknowledges the importance of responding to the climate challenge but is disappointed with key features of the carbon tax proposal. Rio Tinto s view is that without significant changes, the proposal will inevitably hinder investment and jobs growth in Australia and will undermine Australia s international competitiveness without meaningfully reducing global carbon emissions.

***Increase of stake in Ivanhoe Mines***

On August 24, 2011, Rio Tinto exercised its right to subscribe for and acquire common shares in Ivanhoe Mines Ltd. ( Ivanhoe Mines ) As a result, Ivanhoe Mines issued 27,896,570 million new shares to Rio Tinto International Holdings Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto, increasing Rio Tinto s ownership in Ivanhoe Mines by 2.0% to a total of 358,158,442 common shares or 48.5%.

The price paid per share was C\$18.98 and the total consideration for the exercise of this subscription right was C\$529.5 million.

## **Table of Contents**

The subscription was made in accordance with existing contractual arrangements between Rio Tinto and Ivanhoe Mines that permits share purchases in certain circumstances and subject to certain limits. Under the terms of these agreements and subject to certain exceptions, Rio Tinto's current maximum permitted shareholding in Ivanhoe Mines is 49%.

The subscription was made in order to increase Rio Tinto's ownership of Ivanhoe in accordance with its contractual rights.

### **Appointment of Chris Lynch to the Board of Rio Tinto**

On September 1, 2011, Chris Lynch joined the boards of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited as a non-executive director. Chris Lynch has had an extensive career in the mining and metals industry, including seven years at BHP Billiton, where he was chief financial officer and then executive director and group president - Carbon Steel Materials. Prior to this, he spent 20 years with Alcoa, Inc. He is currently chief executive officer of Transurban Group and is also a commissioner of the Australian Football League.

### **Announcement of intention to divest shareholding in Palabora**

On September 5, 2011, Rio Tinto informed the Board of Palabora Mining Company Limited ( Palabora ) of its intention to divest its 57.7% effective shareholding in the company and has initiated a commercial process to sell its shareholding.

Palabora's principal asset is a copper mine in South Africa, which has a current mine life until early 2016. Studies are underway for a potential extension of the mine's life to 2030 but it is no longer of sufficient scale to fit with Rio Tinto's strategy. Palabora also owns a magnetite stockpile and the future of value creation at Palabora is likely to involve beneficiation of the magnetite through on-site processing, an activity that is outside Rio Tinto's strategic focus.

### **U.S.\$310 million investment in Pilbara coastal water project**

On September 9, 2011, Rio Tinto announced that it will invest U.S.\$310 million to assure a sustainable water supply for its iron ore operations in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, ensuring a sufficient resource to accommodate the expansion of annual production capacity up to the planned 333 million tonnes (Mt/a). The coastal water supply project, which involves construction of a new borefield and pipeline system, will be completed by mid-2013, coinciding with the first ore from the planned increase in production capacity to 283 Mt/a. Rio Tinto will build, own and operate the new borefield, located in the lower Bungaroo Valley, 35 kilometres south east of the town of Pannawonica, with an annual capacity of 10 gegalitres (GL/a).

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We estimate that the net proceeds (after underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses) from the sale of the notes will be approximately U.S.\$ . We intend to use the net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

S-17

**Table of Contents****SUMMARY HISTORICAL FINANCIAL DATA**

The following summary consolidated historical financial data are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Rio Tinto incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The summary consolidated historical financial data should be read in conjunction with, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto contained in the Annual Report on Form 20-F of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010 and the unaudited condensed interim financial report contained in the report on Form 6-K filed with the SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited on August 26, 2011 which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. The consolidated financial statements of Rio Tinto have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ( IFRS ).

**Summary Condensed Consolidated Financial Information of Rio Tinto****Income Statement**

	Six months ended June 30,		Year ended December 31,				2006
	2011 (Unaudited)	2010	2010 (Unaudited)	2009	2008 (Audited)	2007	
	(U.S.\$ million)						
Consolidated revenue	29,056 <sup>(1)</sup>	24,544 <sup>(1)</sup>	55,171 <sup>(1)</sup>	41,825	54,264	29,700	22,465
Group operating profit <sup>(3)</sup>	11,056	8,023	19,608 <sup>(2)</sup>	7,506	10,194	8,571	8,974
Profit for the period	8,078	6,278	15,098 <sup>(2)</sup>	5,335	4,609	7,746	7,867
Basic earnings per share (U.S. cents) <sup>(4)</sup>	389.3	298.1	726.1 <sup>(2)</sup>	276.2	234.1	464.9	456.2
Diluted earnings per share (U.S. cents) <sup>(5)</sup>	386.7	297.0	721.8 <sup>(2)</sup>	275.3	233.1	462.9	454.3

**Balance Sheet**

	At	At December 31,				
	June 30, 2011 (Unaudited)	2010 (Unaudited)	2009	2008 (Audited)	2007	2006
	(U.S.\$ million)					
Total assets	122,335	112,773 <sup>(2)</sup>	97,236	89,616	101,091	34,494
Share capital and share premium	10,417	10,105	9,344	5,826	3,323	3,190
Total equity/Net assets	69,299	64,512 <sup>(2)</sup>	45,925	22,461	26,293	19,385
Equity attributable to Rio Tinto shareholders	62,861	58,247 <sup>(2)</sup>	43,831	20,638	24,772	18,232

**Other Financial Data**

	Six months ended June 30,		Year ended December 31,				
	2011 (Unaudited)	2010	2010 (Unaudited)	2009	2008 (Audited)	2007	2006
	(U.S.\$ million)						
EBITDA <sup>(6)</sup>	14,178	11,256	26,553 <sup>(2)</sup>	14,471	23,870	13,611	12,566

## Notes:

- (1) Following the continued integration and organizational restructure of Rio Tinto Aluminium and adoption of the integrated operations approach (see Rio Tinto Financial Information by Business Unit on pages 9 to 12 of the unaudited condensed interim financial report contained in the report on Form 6-K filed with the





**Table of Contents**

- SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited on August 26, 2011), sales of surplus power and carbon products used in the smelting process, previously included within sales revenue, have been treated as a credit to operating costs. In addition, third party commodity swap arrangements for delivery and receipt of smelter grade alumina have been offset within operating costs. Corresponding amounts for the six months ended June 30, 2010 and the year ended December 31, 2010 have been reclassified accordingly. This reclassification is considered to improve the relevance of the financial statements for users in accordance with IAS 1 Presentation of financial statements. The impact of the reclassification on previously reported consolidated sales revenue is: June 30, 2010: a reduction of U.S.\$665 million (December 31, 2010: a reduction of U.S.\$1,405 million).
- (2) The audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2010 have been restated in accordance with IFRS 3 Business Combinations (Revised), following reclassification of certain balances relating to the consolidation of Oyu Tolgoi LLC, and included in the unaudited condensed interim financial report contained in the report on Form 6-K filed with the SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited on August 26, 2011. Provisional fair values on consolidation were determined for Oyu Tolgoi at December 31, 2010. These provisional fair values continue to be reviewed and will be finalized by December 15, 2011, 12 months after the effective date of the agreement with Ivanhoe. During the course of the six months to June 30, 2011, certain reallocations between balance sheet categories were identified as additional information became available. An amount of U.S.\$1,087 million was reclassified to loans and borrowings, with corresponding adjustments of U.S.\$676 million to non-controlling interests and U.S.\$352 million to Investments in Equity Accounted Units. These adjustments resulted in the following restatements to amounts reported in the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2010: a reduction of U.S.\$86 million to both group operating profit and profit for the period, a reduction of 4.4 U.S. cents to basic and diluted earnings per share, an increase of U.S.\$371 million to total assets, a reduction of U.S.\$762 million to total equity/net assets and a reduction of U.S.\$86 million to equity attributable to Rio Tinto shareholders.
  - (3) Group operating profit under IFRS includes the effects of charges and reversals resulting from impairments and profit and loss on disposals of interests in businesses. Group operating profit amounts shown above exclude equity accounted operations, finance items, tax and discontinued operations.
  - (4) The rights issues completed in July 2009 were at a discount to the then market price. Accordingly, earnings per share and dividends per share for all periods up to the date on which the shares were issued were adjusted for the bonus element of the issue. The bonus factor for Rio Tinto plc was 1.2105 and for Rio Tinto Limited was 1.2679.
  - (5) The December 31, 2007 balance sheet has been restated for the revisions to Alcan's fair value accounting which was finalized in 2008.
  - (6) EBITDA (including Rio Tinto's share of equity accounted units) represents profit before finance items and tax, depreciation and amortization in subsidiaries, impairment charges/(reversals), depreciation and amortization in equity accounted units, taxation in equity accounted units and finance items in equity accounted units. Information regarding EBITDA is sometimes used by investors to evaluate the efficiency of a company's operations and its ability to employ its earnings towards repayment of debt, capital expenditures and working capital requirements. There are no generally accepted accounting principles governing the calculation of EBITDA and, as a non-GAAP measure, the criteria upon which EBITDA is based can vary from company to company. EBITDA, by itself, does not provide a sufficient basis to compare Rio Tinto's performance with that of other companies and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for operating profit or any other measure as an indicator of operating performance, or as an alternative to cash generated from operating activities as a measure of liquidity.

**Table of Contents**

The reconciliation of Rio Tinto's profit before finance items and taxation to EBITDA is as follows:

	Six months ended June 30,		2010 <sup>(2)</sup> (Unaudited)	Year ended December 31,			2006
	2011 (Unaudited)	2010		2009	2008	2007	
	(U.S.\$ million)						
Profit on ordinary activities before finance items and taxation	11,499	8,504	20,709	8,292	11,233	10,155	10,352
Depreciation and amortization in subsidiaries	1,837	1,612	3,437	3,427	3,475	2,115	1,509
Impairment charges/(reversals)	195	565	982	1,573	8,030	58	(396)
Depreciation and amortization in equity accounted units	266	252	522	440	414	310	275
Taxation and Finance items in equity accounted units	381	323	903	739	718	973	826
EBITDA (unaudited)	14,178	11,256	26,553	14,471	23,870	13,611	12,566

S-20

**Table of Contents****CAPITALIZATION AND INDEBTEDNESS OF RIO TINTO**

The following table sets out the capitalization and indebtedness of Rio Tinto in accordance with IFRS (i) on an actual basis as of June 30, 2011; and (ii) as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the notes offered hereby.

	At June 30, 2011 <sup>(1)</sup>	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(U.S.\$ millions)	
Total issued share capital of Rio Tinto plc	243	243
Total issued share capital of Rio Tinto Limited	5,874	5,874
<b>Total issued share capital</b>	<b>6,117</b>	<b>6,117</b>
Share premium account	4,300	4,300
Other reserves	17,422	17,422
Retained earnings	35,022	35,022
<b>Total shareholders funds</b>	<b>62,861</b>	<b>62,861</b>
Finance debt <sup>(2)(3)</sup> :		
Borrowings due within one year	737	737
Medium and long-term borrowings	17,426	
<b>Total capitalization and indebtedness</b>	<b>81,024</b>	

## Notes:

- (1) Except for the issuance of the notes offered hereby, there has been no material change to Rio Tinto's capitalization and indebtedness since June 30, 2011.
- (2) For an indication of which debt is secured and unsecured as of December 31, 2010, see Note 22 to the 2010 Financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 20-F of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.
- (3) Of the debt listed in Note 22 to the 2010 Financial Statements in the Annual Report on Form 20-F of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010, which is incorporated herein by reference, the bonds issued by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited are guaranteed by each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited and the notes issued under Rio Tinto's European Medium Term Note Program are guaranteed by Rio Tinto plc.

**Table of Contents****RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

Set forth in the table below are the ratios of earnings to fixed charges of Rio Tinto based on information derived from our consolidated financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with IFRS.

	Six months ended June 30,		Year ended December 31,			
	2011	2010 <sup>(1)</sup>	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	24.96	22.93	7.05	5.91	14.40	39.88

## Notes:

- (1) The ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the year ended December 31, 2010 has been restated in accordance with IFRS 3 Business Combinations (Revised), following reclassification of certain balances relating to the consolidation of Oyu Tolgoi LLC. For more information, please refer to the Acquisitions and disposals note on pages F-13 to F-17 of the unaudited condensed interim financial report contained in the report on Form 6-K filed with the SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited on August 26, 2011.

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges of Rio Tinto is computed by dividing the amount of its pre-tax earnings by the amount of its fixed charges. For the purposes of calculating the ratio, earnings is defined as pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustments for minority interests, less (i) minority interests in pre-tax income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges; and (ii) share of profit after tax of equity accounted units, plus (i) fixed charges; (ii) distributed income of equity investees; and (iii) amortization of capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest costs, both expensed and capitalized, and a reasonable approximation of the rental expense representative of the interest factor.

**Table of Contents****DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEED NOTES**

*This section is a summary of certain financial and legal terms of the notes and supplements the more general description under "Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities" in the base prospectus. To the extent that the following description is inconsistent with the terms described under "Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities" in the base prospectus, the following description replaces that in the base prospectus.*

**General**

We will offer U.S.\$ \_\_\_\_\_ initial aggregate principal amount of \_\_\_\_\_ % notes due 2016, U.S.\$ \_\_\_\_\_ initial aggregate principal amount of \_\_\_\_\_ % notes due 2021 and U.S.\$ \_\_\_\_\_ initial aggregate principal amount of 5.200% notes due 2040. Book-entry interests in the notes will be issued, as described in "Clearance and Settlement" in the base prospectus, in minimum denominations of U.S.\$2,000 and in integral multiples of U.S.\$1,000. The notes will bear interest at the applicable rate per annum shown on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, payable semi-annually in arrears on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of each year, commencing \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in the case of the 2016 notes and the 2021 notes and on May 2 and November 2 of each year, commencing November 2, 2011 in the case of the 2040 notes. The regular record dates for payments of interest will be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the case of the 2016 notes and the 2021 notes and April 17 and October 17 in the case of the 2040 notes. Interest on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. A "business day" means any day other than a day on which banks are permitted or required to be closed in London and New York City. The indenture, the notes and the guarantees will be governed by New York law.

The notes will be unsecured, unsubordinated indebtedness of Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness from time to time outstanding.

Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited each will unconditionally guarantee on an unsubordinated basis the due and punctual payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on the notes, when and as any such payments become due and payable, whether at maturity, upon redemption or declaration of acceleration, or otherwise. The guarantees of the notes will be unsecured, unsubordinated obligations of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited. The guarantees will rank equally with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited from time to time outstanding. Because Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are holding companies, the notes will effectively be subordinated to any indebtedness of each of their subsidiaries.

The trustee will be The Bank of New York Mellon. See "Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities - Default and Related Matters" on page 23 of the base prospectus for a description of the trustee's procedures and remedies available in the event of default.

The principal corporate trust office of the trustee in the City of New York is currently designated as the principal paying agent. We may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of paying agents or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts.

Payment of principal of and interest on the notes, so long as the notes are represented by global securities, as discussed below, will be made in immediately available funds. Beneficial interests in the global securities will trade in the same-day funds settlement system of The Depository Trust Company, referred to as DTC, and secondary market trading activity in such interests will therefore settle in same-day funds.

**Optional Make-Whole Redemption**

We or Rio Tinto may redeem any series of notes in whole or in part, at our option or at the option of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited at any time and from time to time at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed and (ii) as certified to the trustee by us or Rio Tinto, the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments discounted to the date of redemption on a

---

**Table of Contents**

semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate plus a spread of \_\_\_\_\_ basis points in the case of the 2016 notes, \_\_\_\_\_ basis points in the case of the 2021 notes and 20 basis points in the case of the 2040 notes, together with accrued interest on the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed to the date of redemption. In connection with such optional redemption the following defined terms apply:

**Treasury Rate** means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity (computed as of the third business day immediately preceding that redemption date) of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for that redemption date.

**Comparable Treasury Issue** means the United States Treasury security selected by the Independent Investment Banker that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the relevant series of notes.

**Independent Investment Banker** means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by us to act as the Independent Investment Banker.

**Comparable Treasury Price** means, with respect to any redemption date, (i) the average of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) on the third business day preceding that redemption date, as set forth in the daily statistical release designated H.15 (519) (or any successor release) published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and designated Composite 3:30 p.m. Quotations for U.S. Government Securities or (ii) if such release (or any successor release) is not published or does not contain such prices on such business day, (A) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for that redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest of such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (B) if the Independent Investment Banker for the notes obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such Quotations.

**Reference Treasury Dealer** means each of Barclays Capital Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. and SG Americas Securities, LLC in the case of the 2016 notes and the 2021 notes and means each of Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Barclays Capital Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Credit Agricole Securities (USA) Inc. and HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. in the case of the 2040 notes and, in each case, their respective successors and one other nationally recognized investment banking firm that is a Primary Treasury Dealer specified from time to time by us, *provided, however*, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City (a Primary Treasury Dealer), we shall substitute therefor another nationally recognized investment banking firm that is a Primary Treasury Dealer.

**Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation** means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Independent Investment Banker, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Independent Investment Banker by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding that redemption date.

**Remaining Scheduled Payments** means, with respect to each note to be redeemed, the remaining scheduled payments of the principal thereof and interest thereon that would be due after the related redemption date but for such redemption, *provided, however*, that, if that redemption date is not an interest payment date with respect to such notes, the amount of the next succeeding scheduled interest payment thereon will be reduced by the amount of interest accrued thereon to that redemption date.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of the notes to be redeemed. On and after any redemption date, interest will cease to accrue on the notes or any portion thereof called for redemption. On or before any redemption date, we shall deposit



---

## **Table of Contents**

with a paying agent (or the trustee) money sufficient to pay the redemption price of and accrued interest on the notes to be redeemed on such date. If less than all of a series of notes is to be redeemed, the notes to be redeemed shall be selected by the trustee by such method as the trustee shall deem fair and appropriate. The redemption price shall be calculated by the Independent Investment Banker and us, and the trustee and any paying agent for the notes shall be entitled to rely on such calculation.

### **Payment of Additional Amounts**

All payments of principal, premium (if any) and interest in respect of the notes or the guarantees will be made free and clear of, and without withholding or deduction for, any taxes, assessments, duties or governmental charges imposed, levied or collected by any jurisdiction in which we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, or any successor entity, is organized (or any political subdivision or taxing authority of or in that jurisdiction having power to tax). If withholding or deduction is required by law, we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, must, subject to certain exceptions, pay to each holder of the notes additional amounts as may be necessary in order that every net payment of principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest on the notes after deduction or other withholding for or on account of any present or future tax, assessment, duty or other governmental charge, will not be less than the amount that would have been payable on the notes in the absence of such deduction or withholding. The requirement to pay additional amounts and the exceptions thereto are discussed in greater detail on page 17 of the base prospectus under Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities Special Situations Payment of Additional Amounts .

### **Tax Redemption**

In the event of various tax law changes after the date of this prospectus supplement and other limited circumstances that require us, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, to pay additional amounts as described in the base prospectus on page 17 under Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities Special Situations Payment of Additional Amounts , we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited may call all, but not less than all, of the relevant series of notes for redemption. This means we may repay that series of notes early. Our ability to redeem the notes is discussed in greater detail on page 16 of the base prospectus under Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities Special Situations Optional Tax Redemption. If we call a series of notes as a result of such tax law changes, we must pay 100% of their principal amount (including any additional amounts). We will also pay the holders accrued interest if we have not otherwise paid interest through the redemption date (including any additional amounts). Notes will stop bearing interest on the redemption date, even if the holders do not collect their money.

In either of the situations discussed above, we will give notice to DTC of any redemption we propose to make at least 30 days, but not more than 60 days, before the redemption date. Notice by DTC to participating institutions and by these participants to street name holders of indirect interests in the notes will be made according to arrangements among them and may be subject to statutory or regulatory requirements.

### **Defeasance and Discharge**

We may release ourselves from any payment or other obligations on the notes as described under Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance Defeasance and Discharge on page 22 of the base prospectus.

### **Further Issues**

We may from time to time without your consent create and issue further notes having the same terms and conditions as the notes so that the further issue is consolidated and forms a single series with such notes, provided that such further issue constitutes a qualified reopening for U.S. federal income tax purposes or such further notes are issued with not more than a de minimis amount of original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes.



**Table of Contents**

**UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION**

The 2040 notes should form part of a qualified reopening for U.S. federal income tax purposes and, therefore, should be treated as fungible with the Existing 2040 notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The portion of the initial purchase price of the 2040 notes that is allocable to interest that has accrued prior to the issue date of the 2040 notes offered hereunder ( pre-issuance accrued interest ) should be subtracted from the purchase price of the 2040 notes. A portion of the first interest payment will be treated as a nontaxable return of pre-issuance accrued interest and not as interest payable on the 2040 notes. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal income tax treatment of pre-issuance accrued interest.

For a description of other U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the notes, U.S. Holders should read the section entitled Taxation United States Federal Income Taxation in the base prospectus.

**Table of Contents****UNDERWRITING**

Barclays Capital Inc., BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. and SG Americas Securities, LLC are acting as joint bookrunners of the offering and are acting as representatives of the underwriters named below.

Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date of the prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the principal amount of notes set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

<b>Underwriter</b>	<b>2016 Notes Principal Amount</b>	<b>2021 Notes Principal Amount</b>	<b>2040 Notes Principal Amount</b>
Barclays Capital Inc.	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$
Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$
SG Americas Securities, LLC	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$
<b>Total</b>	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the notes included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the notes if they purchase any of the notes.

The underwriters propose to offer some of the notes directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of the prospectus supplement and some of the notes to dealers at the public offering price less a concession not to exceed %, % and % of the principal amount of the 2016 notes, 2021 notes and 2040 notes, respectively. The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not to exceed %, % and % of the principal amount of the 2016 notes, 2021 notes and 2040 notes, respectively, on sales to other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes to the public, the representatives may change the public offering price and concessions.

The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the applicable series of notes):

	<b>Paid by Rio Tinto</b>
Per 2016 note	%
Per 2021 note	%
Per 2040 note	%

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell notes in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Over-allotment involves syndicate sales of notes in excess of the principal amount of notes to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of notes made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes while the offering is in progress.

## **Table of Contents**

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when they, in covering syndicate short positions or making stabilizing purchases, repurchase notes originally sold by that syndicate member.

Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes. They may also cause the price of the notes to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

We estimate that our total expenses (which consist of, among other fees, Securities and Exchange Commission registration fees, legal fees and expenses, accounting fees and expenses and printing expenses) for this offering, excluding underwriting discounts, will be approximately U.S.\$ . The underwriters have agreed to reimburse us for U.S.\$ of expenses incurred in connection with the offering and certain other transactions.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and instruments of Rio Tinto or its subsidiaries. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long or short positions in such securities and instruments.

The underwriters or their affiliates have also performed investment banking and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. The underwriters or their affiliates may in the future, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business for which they may receive customary fees and reimbursement of expenses.

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

### **Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area**

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State ) an offer to the public of any notes described in this prospectus supplement may not be made in that Relevant Member State, except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any notes may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives for any such offer; or

## **Table of Contents**

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of notes shall result in a requirement for the publication by us or any of the underwriters of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and any notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase any notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State, and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

This prospectus supplement has been prepared on the basis that all offers of the notes within the European Economic Area will be made pursuant to an exemption under Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in relevant member states of the European Economic Area, from the requirement to produce a prospectus for offers of the notes. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make any offer of the notes within the European Economic Area should only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us, our affiliates or any of the underwriters to produce a prospectus for such offer. Neither we nor any of the underwriters have authorized, nor do we or they authorize, the making of any offer of the notes through any financial intermediary, other than offers made by the underwriters which constitute the final placement of the notes contemplated in this prospectus supplement.

### **Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom**

An offer of notes described in this prospectus supplement may only be made:

through the communication of an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the FSMA )) in connection with the issue or sale of notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and

in compliance with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done in relation to notes, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

### **Australian Selling Restrictions**

No prospectus or other disclosure document (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 of Australia (the Corporations Act )) in relation to the notes has been or will be lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission ( ASIC ) or Australian Stock Exchange Limited and:

an invitation or offer of the notes for issue, sale or purchase in Australia (including an offer or invitation which is received by a person in Australia) may not be made; and

any draft or final form offering memorandum, advertisement or any other offering material relating to any notes may not be distributed or published in Australia, unless:

the aggregate consideration payable by each offeree is at least A\$500,000 (or its equivalent in other currencies but disregarding moneys lent by the offeror or its associates (as defined in the Corporations Act)) or the offer or invitation otherwise does not require disclosure to investors in accordance with Part 6D.2 of the Corporations Act;

such action complies with all applicable laws and regulations; and

Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

such action does not require any document to be lodged with, or registered by, ASIC.

S-29

**Table of Contents**

In addition, any note issued by the issuer may not be sold in circumstances where employees of an underwriter aware of, or involved in, the sale know, or have reasonable grounds to suspect, that the note or an interest in or right in respect of the note, was being or would later be, acquired either directly or indirectly by an Offshore Associate of the Issuer acting other than in the capacity of a dealer, manager or underwriter in relation to the placement of the notes or a clearing house, custodian, funds manager or responsible entity of a registered scheme within the meaning of the Corporations Act.

Offshore Associate means an associate (as defined in section 128F of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 of Australia and any successor legislation) of the issuer that is either a non-resident of Australia which does not acquire the notes in carrying on a business at or through a permanent establishment in Australia or, alternatively, a resident of Australia that acquires the notes in carrying on business at or through a permanent establishment outside of Australia.

S-30

**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain legal matters relating to the notes and the guarantees will be passed upon by Linklaters LLP, our English and U.S. counsel and by Allens Arthur Robinson, our Australian counsel. Certain legal matters relating to the notes and the guarantees will be passed upon for the underwriters by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, U.S. counsel to the underwriters.

S-31

**Table of Contents**

PROSPECTUS

**RIO TINTO FINANCE (USA) LIMITED**

**DEBT SECURITIES**

**FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED BY**

**RIO TINTO PLC**

**and**

**RIO TINTO LIMITED**

We may offer and sell guaranteed debt securities from time to time. Each time we sell any of the guaranteed debt securities described in this prospectus, we will provide one or more supplements to this prospectus that will contain specific information about those guaranteed debt securities and their offering. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement(s) together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" carefully before you invest.

We may sell these guaranteed debt securities to, or through, underwriters and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of any underwriters or agents will be stated in an accompanying prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to sell any guaranteed debt securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our principal executive offices and the principal executive offices of Rio Tinto Limited are located at Level 33, 120 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia. Our and Rio Tinto Limited's telephone number is +61 3-9283-3333. The principal executive offices of Rio Tinto plc are located at 2 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LG, United Kingdom and its telephone number is +44 20-7781-2000.

*You should carefully consider the risk factors included, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement(s) before you invest in any of our securities.*

*Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.*

Prospectus dated June 21, 2011



**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>ENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL LIABILITIES</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>RIO TINTO PLC AND RIO TINTO LIMITED</u>	4
<u>RIO TINTO FINANCE (USA) LIMITED</u>	6
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	7
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	8
<u>DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEED DEBT SECURITIES</u>	9
<u>CLEARANCE AND SETTLEMENT</u>	25
<u>TAXATION</u>	30
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	46
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	48
<u>EXPERTS</u>	48

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form F-3 that has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer and sell the guaranteed debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the guaranteed debt securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer guaranteed debt securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the offering and the terms of those guaranteed debt securities and the extent to which such terms differ from the general terms described in Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement(s), together with the additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, prior to purchasing any of the guaranteed debt securities offered by this prospectus.

When acquiring any guaranteed debt securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we authorize to be delivered to you. Neither we, nor any underwriters or agents, have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the guaranteed debt securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is truthful or complete at any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of those documents.

In this prospectus, the terms we, our and us refer to Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited. We refer to Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited taken together as Rio Tinto. We refer to Rio Tinto plc, Rio Tinto Limited and their subsidiaries taken together as the Rio Tinto Group, or the Group. Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited offers debt securities using this prospectus. Both Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited act as the guarantors for offerings by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited using this prospectus.

**ENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL LIABILITIES**

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia. Rio Tinto plc is a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. Rio Tinto Limited is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia. Substantially all of our and Rio Tinto's directors and officers, and some of the experts named in this document, reside outside the United States, principally in the United Kingdom and Australia. A substantial portion of our and Rio Tinto's assets, and the assets of such persons, are located outside the United States. Therefore, you may not be able to effect service of process within the United States upon us, Rio Tinto or these persons so that you may enforce judgments of U.S. courts against us, Rio Tinto or these persons based on the civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal or state securities laws. Our English and Australian legal advisers have advised us and Rio Tinto that there are doubts as to the enforceability in England and Wales and Australia, in original actions or in actions for enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts, of civil liabilities based on the U.S. federal or state securities laws.

---

**Table of Contents**

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) applicable to foreign private issuers and, in accordance with these requirements, file annual and special reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain documents Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited file with the SEC on the SEC website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The address of the SEC's internet site is provided solely for the information of prospective investors and is not intended to be an active link. Please visit this website or call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information about its public reference room.

American depositary shares representing ordinary shares of Rio Tinto plc are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and the ordinary shares are admitted to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and to trading on the London Stock Exchange plc's main market for listed securities. The ordinary shares of Rio Tinto Limited are listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. You can consult reports and other information about Rio Tinto plc that it has filed pursuant to the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and the UK Listing Authority, and about Rio Tinto Limited that it has filed pursuant to the rules of the Australian Securities Exchange, at those exchanges or authorities.

The SEC allows us and Rio Tinto to incorporate by reference the information that we and Rio Tinto file with them, which means that:

incorporated documents are considered part of this prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents; and

information that we and Rio Tinto file with the SEC in the future and incorporate by reference herein will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus and information previously incorporated by reference herein.

The information that we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus.

Each document incorporated by reference is current only as of the date of such document, and the incorporation by reference of such documents shall not create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Rio Tinto Group since the date thereof or that the information contained therein is current as of any time subsequent to its date. Any statement contained in such incorporated documents shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purpose of this prospectus to the extent that a subsequent statement contained in another document we incorporate by reference at a later date modifies or supersedes that statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents below filed with the SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited pursuant to the Exchange Act. We also incorporate by reference any future filings that Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until we sell all of the securities. Our reports on Form 6-K furnished to the SEC after the date of this prospectus (or portions thereof) are incorporated by reference in this prospectus only to the extent that the forms expressly state that we incorporate them (or such portions) by reference in this prospectus.

The documents incorporated by reference herein in the future and set forth below contain important information about us and our financial condition:

- (i) Annual Report on Form 20-F of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010 filed with the SEC on March 15, 2011; and
- (ii) any future report on Form 20-F that either of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited files with the SEC under the Exchange Act until we sell the guaranteed debt securities that may be offered through this prospectus.



**Table of Contents**

You can obtain copies of any of the documents incorporated by reference through Rio Tinto or the SEC. Documents incorporated by reference are available without charge, excluding all exhibits unless an exhibit has been specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You may obtain Rio Tinto documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, at no cost, by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Rio Tinto plc	Rio Tinto Limited
2 Eastbourne Terrace	Level 33,
London W2 6LG	120 Collins Street
United Kingdom	Melbourne, Victoria 3000
011-44-20-7781-2000	Australia
	011-61-3-9283-3333

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus contains and incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and business of the Rio Tinto Group. These statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act) and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. The words intend, aim, project, anticipate, estimate, p believe, expect, may, should, will, or similar expressions, commonly identify such forward-looking statements.

Examples of forward-looking statements contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus include those regarding estimated ore reserves, anticipated production or construction dates, costs, outputs and productive lives of assets or similar factors. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors set forth in this document that are beyond the Group's control. For example, future ore reserves will be based in part on market prices that may vary significantly from current levels. These may materially affect the timing and feasibility of particular developments. Other factors include the ability to produce and transport products profitably, demand for our products, the effect of foreign currency exchange rates on market prices and operating costs, and activities by governmental authorities, such as changes in taxation or regulation, and political uncertainty.

In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, actual results could be materially different from projected future results expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements which speak only as at the date of this prospectus. Except as required by applicable regulations or by law, the Group does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information or future events. The Group cannot guarantee that its forward-looking statements will not differ materially from actual results.

---

**Table of Contents**

**RIO TINTO PLC AND RIO TINTO LIMITED**

**The Rio Tinto Group**

The Rio Tinto Group combines Rio Tinto plc, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange and headquartered in London, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and has executive offices in Melbourne.

Businesses include open pit and underground mines, mills, refineries and smelters as well as a number of research and service facilities. The Group consists of wholly and partly owned subsidiaries, jointly controlled assets, jointly controlled entities and associated companies.

On December 31, 2010, Rio Tinto plc had a market capitalization of £68 billion (U.S.\$107 billion) and Rio Tinto Limited had a market capitalization of A\$37 billion (U.S.\$38 billion). The Group's combined market capitalization in publicly held shares on December 31, 2010, was U.S.\$145 billion.

Rio Tinto's operational structure is designed to facilitate a clear focus on the Group's objective. This structure is based on the following primary product and business support groups:

*Aluminium:* Rio Tinto is a global leader in the aluminium industry. Its closely integrated facilities include high quality bauxite mines and alumina refineries, as well as some of the world's lowest cost primary aluminium smelters.

*Copper:* The Copper group is one of the world's largest producers of copper, with valuable by-products of gold and molybdenum. A diverse mix of operations and projects are located in North and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia. In addition to interests in some of the world's largest copper mines, it is taking the lead in the development of three of the world's largest new copper projects, including management of the Oyu Tolgoi project.

*Diamonds & Minerals:* The group comprises mining, refining and marketing operations across three sectors: Rio Tinto Diamonds (RTD), Rio Tinto Minerals (RTM) and Rio Tinto Iron & Titanium (RTIT). RTD is one of the world's leading diamond producers. RTM is a world leader in borates with mines, processing plants, commercial and research facilities, and RTIT is a market leader in high grade titanium dioxide.

*Energy:* Rio Tinto Energy is a leading supplier of thermal and coking coal to the Asian seaborne market as well as being one of the world's largest uranium producers, serving electric utilities worldwide. The Rio Tinto Energy portfolio includes Rio Tinto Coal Australia, a coal mine at Colowyo in Colorado, a 68.4% interest in Energy Resources of Australia which produces uranium oxide from its Ranger operations, and a 68.6% interest in Rössing Uranium, a Namibian uranium oxide producer. In 2011, Rio Tinto acquired a controlling interest in Riversdale Mining Limited, a company with considerable coal assets in Africa.

*Iron Ore:* Rio Tinto Iron Ore is the second largest producer supplying the world's seaborne iron ore trade. It has a global supply capacity to serve both the Pacific and Atlantic markets, operating an integrated platform of mines, rail and port infrastructure including development projects and is well positioned to benefit from the continuing demand surge in China and other Asian markets. The Rio Tinto Iron Ore product group includes the Dampier Salt operations located near its iron ore mines in Australia.

*Exploration:* Exploration is one of the Group's core activities. Potential Tier 1 discoveries are retained for development and operation. These have included two of the largest copper opportunities in the world at Resolution in Arizona, United States and La Granja in Peru. Exploration has also delivered one of the world's largest known, undeveloped high grade iron ore deposits, at Simandou in Guinea, as well as the Caliwingina channel iron deposits in the Pilbara, Australia.



## **Table of Contents**

*Technology & Innovation:* Technology & Innovation consists of a centralized team of specialists focused on improving current technologies and operations, with emphasis on project development, execution and evaluation. The Group's Innovation Centre concentrates on step changes that will give the Group competitive advantages in developing the ore bodies of the future. A special Energy & Climate Strategy Centre is dedicated to improving the Group's use of energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and understanding the effects of climate change on its operations and prospects.

## **The DLC Structure**

Each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited is the ultimate holding company of the companies within its respective group and its respective assets are substantially comprised of shares in such companies. Neither Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited conducts any other business and both are accordingly dependent on the other members of the Rio Tinto Group and revenues received from them.

In December 1995, the shareholders of each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited approved the terms of a dual listed companies merger (the DLC merger) that was designed to place the shareholders of each of the companies in substantially the same position as if they held shares in a single enterprise. Following the approval of the DLC merger, each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited entered into a DLC Merger Sharing Agreement (the Sharing Agreement). The Sharing Agreement ensured that the boards of directors of each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited were identical and that their businesses are managed as a single enterprise. The Sharing Agreement provided for the ratio of dividend, voting and capital distribution rights attached to each Rio Tinto plc ordinary share and to each Rio Tinto Limited share to be fixed in an equalization ratio which has remained unchanged at 1:1. In principle, the Sharing Agreement provides for the public shareholders of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited to vote as a joint electorate on all matters which affect them in similar ways. However, the Sharing Agreement also provides for the protection of the public shareholders of each of the companies by treating the shares of each as if they were separate classes of shares issued by a single company.

Also in December 1995, each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited entered into a Deed Poll Guarantee in favor of the creditors of the other. Pursuant to the Deed Poll Guarantees, each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited guaranteed the contractual obligations of the other (and the obligations of other persons which are guaranteed by the other company), subject to certain limited exceptions. As a consequence of the Deed Poll Guarantees, holders of notes issued by the Company may make demand upon either Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited.



**Table of Contents**

**RIO TINTO FINANCE (USA) LIMITED**

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited (ABN 84 062 129 551), a corporation incorporated with limited liability in Australia, on October 19, 1993, under the Corporations Act 2001 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto Limited and is one of the finance companies through which the Rio Tinto Group conducts its treasury operations. We have access to surplus corporate funds which we invest in the money markets and raise finance from banks and third parties in the short, medium and long-term markets for on-lending to Rio Tinto Group companies. We also undertake foreign exchange and interest rate transactions as part of the Rio Tinto Group's long-term management of foreign currency and interest rate exposures. Our registered and principal executive office is located at 120 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia.

**Table of Contents****RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

Set forth in the table below are the ratios of earnings to fixed charges of Rio Tinto based on information derived from our consolidated financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ( IFRS ).

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	23.02	7.05	5.91	14.40	39.88

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges of Rio Tinto is computed by dividing the amount of its pre-tax earnings by the amount of its fixed charges. For the purposes of calculating the ratio, earnings is defined as pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustments for minority interests, less (i) minority interests in pre-tax income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges; and (ii) share of profits after tax of equity accounted units, plus (i) fixed charges; (ii) distributed income of equity investees; and (iii) amortization of capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest costs, both expensed and capitalized, and a reasonable approximation of the interest component of rental expense representative of the interest factor.

**Table of Contents**

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The net proceeds from the sale of the guaranteed debt securities offered will be added to the general funds of Rio Tinto, unless we state otherwise in a prospectus supplement.

---

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEED DEBT SECURITIES**

*This prospectus relates to guaranteed debt securities issued by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited. As required by federal law of the United States for all bonds and notes of companies that are publicly offered, the debt securities are governed by a document called an indenture. The indenture relating to debt securities issued by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited is a contract among Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited, Rio Tinto plc, Rio Tinto Limited and The Bank of New York Mellon (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank).*

**General**

The Bank of New York Mellon (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank) acts as the trustee under the indenture. The trustee has two principal functions:

First, it can enforce the rights of holders of the debt securities against us or Rio Tinto if we or Rio Tinto default on debt securities issued under the indenture. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on behalf of holders of the debt securities, described under [Default and Related Matters](#) [Events of Default](#) [Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs](#) below; and

Second, the trustee performs administrative duties for us, such as sending interest payments to holders, transferring debt securities to new buyers and sending notices to holders.

Both Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited act as the guarantors of the debt securities issued under the indenture. The guarantees are described under [Guarantees](#) below.

The indenture and its associated documents contain the full legal text of the matters described in this section. The indenture, the debt securities and the guarantees are governed by New York law. A copy of the form of indenture is filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain a copy.

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited may issue as many distinct series of debt securities under the indenture as it wishes. This section summarizes all material terms of the debt securities and the guarantees that are common to all series, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series.

Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities or the guarantees. This summary is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture, including some of the terms used in the indenture. We describe the meaning for only the more important terms. We also include references in parentheses to some sections of the indenture. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the indenture in this prospectus or in the prospectus supplement, those sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in the prospectus supplement. This summary also is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the particular terms of the series of debt securities described in the prospectus supplement.

In addition, the specific financial, legal and other terms particular to a series of debt securities are described in the prospectus supplement and the pricing agreement relating to the series. Those terms may vary from the terms described here. Accordingly, this summary also is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the terms of the series of debt securities described in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the following terms of the series:

the title of the series of debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the series of debt securities;

any stock exchange on which we will list the series of debt securities;



**Table of Contents**

the date or dates on which we will pay the principal of the series of debt securities;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, per annum at which the series of debt securities will bear interest, if any, and the date or dates from which that interest, if any, will accrue;

the dates on which interest, if any, on the series of debt securities will be payable and the regular record dates for the interest payment dates;

any mandatory or optional sinking funds or analogous provisions or provisions for redemption at the option of the holder;

the date, if any, after which and the price or prices at which the series of debt securities may, in accordance with any optional or mandatory redemption provisions that are not described in this prospectus, be redeemed and the other detailed terms and provisions of those optional or mandatory redemption provisions, if any;

the denominations in which the series of debt securities will be issuable;

the currency of payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities if other than the currency of the United States and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in the currency of the United States;

any index used to determine the amount of payment of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities;

the applicability of the provisions described later under Restrictive Covenants Defeasance and Discharge ;

if the series of debt securities will be issuable in whole or part in the form of a global security as described under Legal Ownership Global Securities , and the depositary or its nominee with respect to the series of debt securities, and any special circumstances under which the global security may be registered for transfer or exchange in the name of a person other than the depositary or its nominee; and

any other special features of the series of debt securities.

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, which are debt securities that are offered and sold at a material discount to their stated principal amount (*Section 101 of the Indenture*). The prospectus supplement relating to original issue discount securities will describe U.S. federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to them. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any such debt securities.

**Guarantees**

Both Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited will fully and unconditionally guarantee the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities, including any additional amounts which may be payable in respect of the debt securities, as described under Special Situations Payment of Additional Amounts . Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited guarantee the payment of such amounts when such amounts become due and payable, whether at the stated maturity of the debt securities, by declaration or acceleration, call for redemption or otherwise. Each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited is individually obligated to pay such amounts.



---

## **Table of Contents**

### **Legal Ownership**

#### ***Street Name and Other Indirect Holders***

Investors who hold debt securities in accounts at banks or brokers will generally not be recognized by us as legal holders of debt securities. This is called holding in street name. Instead, we would recognize only the bank or broker, or the financial institution the bank or broker uses to hold its debt securities. These intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions pass along principal, interest and other payments on the debt securities, either because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Holders of debt securities who hold in street name should check with their institutions to find out:

how it handles payments in respect of the debt securities and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle voting if it were ever required;

whether and how holders can instruct it to send their debt securities, registered in their own names so they can be direct holders as described below; and

how it would pursue rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests.

#### ***Direct Holders***

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by us or the trustee, run only to persons who are registered as holders of debt securities. As noted above, we do not have obligations to holders who hold in street name or other indirect means, either because such holders choose to hold debt securities in that manner or because the debt securities are issued in the form of global securities as described below. For example, once we make payment to the registered holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment even if that holder is legally required to pass the payment along to the street name customer but does not do so.

#### ***Global Securities***

*What is a Global Security?* A global security is a special type of indirectly held security, as described above under *Street Name and Other Indirect Holders*. If we choose to issue debt securities in the form of global securities, the ultimate beneficial owners can only be indirect holders.

We require that the global security be registered in the name of a financial institution we select. In addition, we require that the debt securities included in the global security not be transferred to the name of any other direct holder unless the special circumstances described below occur. The financial institution that acts as the sole direct holder of the global security is called the depository. Any person wishing to own a security must do so indirectly by virtue of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository. The prospectus supplement indicates whether a particular series of debt securities will be issued only in the form of global securities.

*Special Investor Considerations for Global Securities.* As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize this type of investor as a holder of debt securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

Investors in debt securities that are issued only in the form of global debt securities should be aware that:



## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

They cannot get debt securities registered in their own names.

They cannot receive physical certificates for their interests in the debt securities.

## **Table of Contents**

They will be street name holders and must look to their own banks or brokers for payments on the debt securities and protection of their legal rights relating to the debt securities, as explained earlier under **Legal Ownership** **Street Name and Other Indirect Holders** .

They may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their debt securities in the form of physical certificates.

The depository's policies will govern payments, transfers, exchange and other matters relating to holders' interests in the global security. We and the trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's actions or for its records of ownership interests in the global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depository in any way.

The depository will require that interests in a global security be purchased or sold within its system using same-day funds.

*Special Situations When Global Security Will Be Terminated.* In a few special situations described later, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing debt securities. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold debt securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own bank or brokers to find out how to have their interests in debt securities transferred to their own name so that they will be direct holders. The rights of street name investors and direct holders in the debt securities have been previously described in the subsections entitled **Legal Ownership** **Street Name and Other Indirect Holders** and **Direct Holders** .

The special situations for termination of a global security are:

When the depository notifies us or Rio Tinto that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depository.

When an event of default on the debt securities has occurred and has not been cured. Defaults are discussed below under **Default and Related Matters** **Events of Default** .

The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of debt securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depository (and not we or the trustee) is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders. (*Sections 305 and 206*)

## **Overview of Remainder of this Description**

The remainder of this description summarizes:

**Additional mechanics** relevant to the debt securities under normal circumstances, such as how to transfer ownership and where we make payments.

Holders' rights under several **special situations**, such as if we merge with another company, if we want to change a term of the debt securities or if we want to redeem the debt securities for tax reasons.

Holders' rights to receive **payment of additional amounts** due to changes in the withholding requirements of various jurisdictions.

**Covenants** contained in the indenture that restrict our and Rio Tinto's ability to incur liens. A particular series of debt securities may have additional covenants.

Holders' rights if we or Rio Tinto **default** in respect of our or Rio Tinto's obligations under the debt securities or experience other financial difficulties.

Our relationship with the **trustee**.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Additional Mechanics**

#### ***Exchange and Transfer***

The debt securities will be issued:

only in fully registered form;

without interest coupons; and

unless indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations that are even multiples of U.S.\$1,000. Holders may have their debt securities broken into more debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. (*Section 305*) This is called an exchange.

Holders may exchange or transfer their debt securities at the office of the trustee. The trustee acts as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders and transferring the securities. We may change this appointment to another entity or perform the service ourselves. The entity performing the role of maintaining the list of registered holders is called the security registrar. It will also register transfers of the debt securities. (*Section 305*)

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange debt securities, but may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The transfer or exchange of a registered debt security will only be made if the security registrar is satisfied with a holder's proof of ownership.

If we have designated additional transfer agents, they are named in the prospectus supplement. We may cancel the designation of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts. (*Section 1002*)

If the debt securities are redeemable and we redeem less than all of the debt securities of a particular series, we may block the transfer or exchange of debt securities during a specified period of time in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. The period begins 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ends on the day of that mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of debt securities selected for redemption. However, we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any security being partially redeemed. (*Section 305*)

#### ***Payment and Paying Agents***

We will pay interest to holders who are direct holders listed in the trustee's records at the close of business on a particular day in advance of each due date for interest, even if such holders no longer own the security on the interest due date. That particular day, usually about two weeks in advance of the interest due date, is called the regular record date and is stated in the prospectus supplement. (*Section 307*)

We will pay interest, principal and any other money due on your debt securities at the corporate trust office of the trustee in New York City. That office is currently located at 101 Barclay Street, New York, NY 10286. Holders must make arrangements to have payments picked up at or wired from that office. We may also choose to pay interest by mailing checks.

Interest on global securities will be paid to the holder thereof by wire transfer of same-day funds.

---

## **Table of Contents**

Holders buying and selling debt securities must work out between them how to compensate for the fact that we will pay all the interest for an interest period to, in the case of registered debt securities, the one who is the registered holder on the regular record date. The most common manner is to adjust the sales price of the debt securities to prorate interest fairly between buyer and seller. This prorated interest amount is called accrued interest.

*Street name and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments.*

We or Rio Tinto may also arrange for additional payment offices, and may cancel or change these offices, including our or Rio Tinto's use of the trustee's corporate trust office. These offices are called paying agents. We may also choose to act as our own paying agent. We must notify holders of changes in the paying agents for any particular series of debt securities. (Section 1002)

### **Notices**

We and the trustee will send notices only to direct holders, using their addresses as listed in the trustee's records. (Sections 101 and 106)

Regardless of who acts as paying agent, all money that we pay to a paying agent that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the amount is due to direct holders will be repaid to us. After that two-year period, holders may look only to us for payment and not to the trustee, any other paying agent or anyone else. (Section 1003)

### **Special Situations**

#### ***Mergers and Similar Events***

We, Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are generally permitted to consolidate or merge with another entity. We, Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are also permitted to sell or lease substantially all of our assets to another entity or to buy or lease substantially all of the assets of another entity. However, Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited may only take these actions if the successor entity is incorporated or organized under the laws of Australia, any state thereof, or the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia. In addition, neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited may take any of these actions unless all the following conditions are met:

Where Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited merges out of existence or sells or leases substantially all its assets, the successor entity must be duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction.

If such successor entity is organized under the laws of a jurisdiction other than Australia, the United Kingdom, or the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia, it must indemnify holders against any governmental charge or other cost resulting from the transaction.

Neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited may be in default on the debt securities or guarantees immediately prior to such action and such action must not cause a default. For purposes of this no-default test, a default would include an event of default that has occurred and not been cured, as described under **Default and Related Matters** **Events of Default** **What is An Event of Default?** A default for this purpose would also include any event that would be an event of default if the requirements for notice of default or existence of defaults for a specified period of time were disregarded.

---

**Table of Contents**

If we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited merges out of existence or sells or leases substantially all of our or their assets, the successor entity must execute a supplement to the indenture, known as a supplemental indenture. In the supplemental indenture, the entity must promise to be bound by every obligation in the indenture applicable to Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be.

We, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, must deliver a certificate and an opinion of counsel to the trustee, each stating that the consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer or lease, and, if applicable, the supplemental indenture pursuant to which the successor entity assumes our obligations or the obligations of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, are in compliance with the indenture.

Neither our nor Rio Tinto's assets or properties may become subject to any impermissible lien unless the debt securities issued under the indenture are secured equally and ratably with the indebtedness secured by the impermissible lien. Impermissible liens are described in further detail below under *Restrictive Covenants* *Restrictions on Liens*.

Under the indenture, Rio Tinto or any Rio Tinto subsidiary may assume our obligations under the debt securities. This would likely be a taxable event to U.S. holders. U.S. holders would likely be treated as having exchanged their debt securities for other debt securities issued by Rio Tinto or such subsidiary and therefore may have to recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon such assumption.

***Modification and Waiver***

There are three types of changes we can make to the indenture and the debt securities.

*Changes Requiring the Approval of all Holders.* First, there are changes that cannot be made to the debt securities without the specific approval of each holder of the debt securities of the applicable series. Following is a list of those types of changes:

Changes to the stated maturity of the principal or the interest payment dates on a debt security;

any reduction in amounts due on a debt security;

changes to any of our or Rio Tinto's obligations to pay additional amounts described later under *Special Situations* *Payment of Additional Amounts*;

any reduction in the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity of a debt security following a default;

changes in the place or currency of payment on a debt security;

any impairment of holders' right to sue for payment;

any reduction in the percentage of holders of debt securities whose consent is needed to modify or amend the indenture;

any reduction in the percentage of holders of debt securities whose consent is needed to waive compliance with various provisions of the indenture or to waive various defaults; and

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

any modification, in any manner adverse to the holders of the debt securities, to the obligations of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited in respect of the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any. (*Section 901*)

*Changes Requiring a Majority Vote.* The second type of change to the indenture and the debt securities is the kind that requires a vote in favor by holders of debt securities owning a majority of the principal amount of the particular series affected. Most changes fall into this category, except for clarifying changes, amendments, supplements and other changes that would not adversely affect holders of the debt securities in any material respect. The same vote would be required for us to obtain a waiver of all or part of the covenants described below

## **Table of Contents**

or a waiver of a past default. However, we cannot obtain a waiver of a payment default or any other aspect of the indenture or the debt securities listed in the first category described previously under **Changes Requiring the Approval of all Holders** unless we obtain the individual consent of each holder to the waiver. (*Section 513*)

*Changes Not Requiring Approval.* The third type of change does not require any vote by holders of debt securities. This type is limited to clarifications and other changes that would not adversely affect holders of the debt securities in any material respect. (*Section 901*)

*Further Details Concerning Voting.* When taking a vote, we will use the following rules to decide how much principal amount to attribute to a security:

For original issue discount securities, we will use the principal amount that would be due and payable on the voting date if the maturity of the debt securities were accelerated to that date because of a default.

For debt securities whose principal amount is not known (for example, because it is based on an index), we will use a special rule for that security described in the prospectus supplement.

For debt securities denominated in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, we will use the U.S. dollar equivalent.

Debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote, if we have deposited or set aside in trust money for their payment or redemption. Debt securities will also not be eligible to vote if they have been fully defeased as described later under **Restrictive Covenants Defeasance and Discharge**. (*Section 101*)

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the indenture. In limited circumstances, the trustee will be entitled to set a record date for action by holders. If we or the trustee set a record date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of a particular series, that vote or action may be taken only by persons who are holders of outstanding debt securities of that series on the record date and must be taken within 180 days following the record date or another period that we may specify (or as the trustee may specify, if it set the record date). We may shorten or lengthen (but not beyond 180 days) this period from time to time. (*Section 104*)

***Street name and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how approval may be granted or denied if we seek to change the indenture or the debt securities or request a waiver.***

### ***Optional Tax Redemption***

The debt securities of any series may be redeemed in whole but not in part, in the three situations described below. The redemption price for the debt securities will be equal to the principal amount of the debt securities being redeemed plus accrued interest and any additional amounts due on the date fixed for redemption. Holders must receive between 30 and 60 days notice before their debt securities are redeemed.

The first situation is where, as a result of a change in or amendment to any laws, regulations or rulings or the official application or interpretation of such laws, regulations or rulings, any of us, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited determines that it would be required to pay additional amounts as described later under **Payment of Additional Amounts**.

The second situation is where, as a result of a change in or amendment to any laws, rulings or regulations or the official application or interpretation of such laws, rulings or regulations, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited or any subsidiary of either of them determines that it would have to deduct or withhold tax on any payment to Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited to enable it to make a payment of principal or interest on a debt security.





---

**Table of Contents**

In the first and second situations, the option to redeem the debt securities applies only in the case of changes or amendments that occur on or after the date specified in the prospectus supplement for the applicable series of debt securities and in the jurisdiction where Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are incorporated. If we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, have been succeeded by another entity, the applicable jurisdiction will be the jurisdiction in which such successor entity is organized, and the applicable date will be the date the entity became a successor.

In addition, in the case of the first and second situations, we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited will not have the option to redeem if we could have avoided the payment of additional amounts or the deduction or withholding by using reasonable measures available to us.

The third situation is where, following a merger or consolidation of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited or a transfer or lease of all of Rio Tinto plc's or Rio Tinto Limited's assets, the person formed by such merger, consolidation, transfer or lease is organized under the laws of a jurisdiction other than the United States, the United Kingdom or Australia, or any political subdivisions thereof, and is required to pay additional amounts as described under *Payment of Additional Amounts*.

We, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited shall deliver to the trustee an Officer's Certificate to the effect that the circumstances required for redemption exist. (*Sections 1104 and 1108*).

***Payment of Additional Amounts***

If the debt securities of any series provide for the payment of additional amounts, all payments of principal, premium (if any) and interest in respect of the debt securities or the guarantees will be made free and clear of, and without withholding or deduction for, any taxes, assessments, duties or governmental charges or whatever nature imposed, levied or collected by or within a Relevant Taxing Jurisdiction unless that withholding or deduction is required by law. A Relevant Taxing Jurisdiction is any jurisdiction under the laws of which we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, or any successor entity, are or is organized (or any political subdivision or taxing authority of or in that jurisdiction having power to tax).

The indenture provides that if withholding or deduction is required by law, then we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, will pay to the holder of any debt security additional amounts as may be necessary in order that every net payment of principal of (and premium, if any, on) and interest, if any, on that debt security after deduction or other withholding for or on account of any present or future tax, assessment, duty or other governmental charge of any nature whatsoever imposed, levied or collected by or on behalf of a Relevant Taxing Jurisdiction, will not be less than the amount that would have been payable on that debt security in the absence of such deduction or withholding. However, we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, will not be required to make any payment of additional amounts in respect of taxes imposed as a result of any of the following circumstances:

If the holder is a U.S. person and the U.S. government or any political subdivision of the U.S. government is the entity that is imposing the tax or governmental charge. For this purpose, a U.S. person is any person who, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a citizen or resident, a domestic corporation, an estate whose income is subject to taxation regardless of its source, or a trust if a U.S. court can exercise supervision over the trust's administration and one or more U.S. persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

The payment of additional amounts is for a tax or charge imposed only because the holder, or a fiduciary, settlor, beneficiary or member or shareholder of, or possessor of a power over, the holder, if the holder is an estate, trust, partnership or corporation, was or is connected to the Relevant Taxing Jurisdiction. These connections include where the holder or related party:

is or has been a citizen or resident of the jurisdiction;

is or has been engaged in trade or business in the jurisdiction; or

**Table of Contents**

has or had a permanent establishment in the jurisdiction.

The payment of additional amounts is for a tax or charge imposed due to the presentation of a debt security, if presentation is required, for payment on a date more than 30 days after the security became due or after the payment was provided for.

The payment of additional amounts is on account of an estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar tax or other governmental charge.

The payment of additional amounts is for a tax or governmental charge that is payable in a manner that does not involve withholdings.

The payment of additional amounts is for a tax imposed or withheld because the holder or beneficial owner failed to comply with any of our or Rio Tinto's requests for the following that the statutes, treaties, regulations or administrative practices of the Relevant Taxing Jurisdiction require as a precondition to exemption from all or part of such withholding:

to provide information about the nationality, residence or identity of the holder or beneficial owner; or

to make a declaration or satisfy any information requirements.

In the case of a payment made by Rio Tinto plc under its guarantees, the payment of additional amounts results from the security being presented for payment, where presentation is required, in the United Kingdom unless presentation could not have been made elsewhere.

The payment of additional amounts is for any withholding or deduction imposed on a payment to an individual which is required to be made pursuant to any law implementing European Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income or any law implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to, such directive.

The payment of additional amounts is for any withholding or deduction required to be made with respect to a debt security presented for payment, where presentation is required, by or on behalf of a holder who would have been able to avoid such withholding or deduction by presenting the relevant debt security to another paying agent in a member state of the European Union.

The holder of a debt security is our associate (as that term is defined in the Australian tax legislation (the Australian Tax Act)) and, as a result, the Australian Tax Act requires withholding tax to be paid on the interest or amounts in the nature of interest payable on the debt security.

A determination is made under the Australian Tax Act that withholding tax is payable because the holder has participated in a scheme to avoid withholding tax provided that neither we nor Rio Tinto participated in the scheme.

The holder is a fiduciary or partnership or an entity that is not the sole beneficial owner of the payment of the principal of, or any interest on, any security, and the laws of the Relevant Taxing Jurisdiction require the payment to be included in the income of a beneficiary or settlor for tax purposes with respect to such fiduciary or a member of such partnership or a beneficial owner who

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

would not have been entitled to such additional amounts had it been the holder of such security. These provisions will also apply to any taxes or governmental charges imposed by any jurisdiction in which a successor to us or Rio Tinto is incorporated. The prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities will describe whether additional amounts are payable with respect to that series of securities and if so, may describe additional circumstances in which we would not be required to pay additional amounts.

Additional amounts may also be payable in the event of certain consolidations, mergers, sales of assets or assumptions of obligations. For more information see [Optional Tax Redemption and Taxation](#). References to principal, premium and interest in this prospectus shall be deemed to include additional amounts payable with respect thereto.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### **Restrictive Covenants**

#### ***Restrictions on Liens***

Some of our or Rio Tinto's property may be subject to a mortgage or other legal mechanism that gives our and Rio Tinto's lenders preferential rights in that property over other lenders, including the holders of the debt securities, or over our and Rio Tinto's general creditors if we fail to pay them back. These preferential rights are called liens. We promise that we will not become obligated on any new debt for borrowed money that is secured by a lien on any of our or Rio Tinto's properties, unless we or Rio Tinto grant an equivalent or higher-ranking lien on the same property to the holders of the debt securities.

Neither we nor Rio Tinto need to comply with this restriction if the amount of all debt that would be secured by liens on our or Rio Tinto's properties, excluding the debt secured by the liens that are listed below, is less than 10% of Rio Tinto's consolidated net worth plus minorities. Consolidated net worth plus minorities is defined in the indenture as a measure of the net worth of Rio Tinto that includes amounts attributable to the outside interests in the accounting subsidiaries of Rio Tinto. (*Sections 101 and 1007*) At the date of this prospectus, a substantial portion of the consolidated assets of Rio Tinto is held by their subsidiaries and thus would not be subject to this restriction on liens.

This restriction on liens applies only to liens for borrowed money. In addition, this restriction on liens also does not apply to debt secured by a number of different types of liens. These types of liens include the following:

any lien existing on or before the date of the issuance of the applicable series of debt securities;

any lien arising by operation of law and not as a result of any act or omission on our or Rio Tinto's part;

liens arising from any judgment against us or Rio Tinto that does not give rise to an event of default;

any lien created on property (or the title documents for that property) acquired after the date of the issuance of the applicable series of debt securities for the sole purpose of financing or refinancing or securing the cost of that property so long as the principal moneys secured by the property do not exceed the cost of that acquisition;

any lien over property (or the title documents for that property) that was in existence at the time we or Rio Tinto acquired the property;

any lien over assets and/or, where such assets comprise substantially the whole of the assets of their owner, shares or stock in the owner of those assets that secures project finance borrowing to finance the costs of developing, or acquiring and developing, those assets;

any lien over property, including improvements, which was developed, constructed or improved by us or Rio Tinto, acquired after the date of the issuance of the applicable series of debt securities,

to secure the payment of all or any part of the cost of development or construction of or improvement on the property, or

to secure indebtedness incurred by us or Rio Tinto for the purpose of financing all or any part of the cost of development or construction or of improvements on the property,

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

so long as the secured indebtedness does not exceed the higher of the cost or the fair market value of that development, construction or improvement;

any lien arising solely by operation of law over any credit balance or cash held in an account with a financial institution;

any lien arising in transactions entered into or established for our or Rio Tinto's benefit in connection with any of the following:

the operation of cash management programs;

**Table of Contents**

other payment netting arrangements;

derivatives transactions (including swaps, caps, collars, options, futures transactions, forward rate agreements and foreign exchange transactions and any other similar transaction (including any option with respect to any of the foregoing) and any combination of any of the foregoing);

other normal banking transactions; or

in the ordinary course of letter of credit transactions;

any lien securing our or Rio Tinto's indebtedness for borrowed money incurred in connection with the financing of our or Rio Tinto's accounts receivable;

any lien arising in the ordinary course of dealings in base and precious metals, other minerals, petroleum or any other materials;

any lien incurred or deposits made in the ordinary course of business, including, but not limited to;

- any mechanics, materialmen's, carriers, workmen's, vendors or similar lien;
- any lien securing amounts in connection with workers' compensation unemployment insurance and other types of social security; and
- any easements, right-of-way, restrictions and other similar charges;

any lien securing all or part of our or Rio Tinto's interest in any mine or mineral deposit and/or facilities and/or any agreement or instrument relating to a mine or mineral deposit that is in favor of any operator or participant in that mine, mineral deposit or facility if

- the lien serves as security for any sum which may become due to
  - an operator in its capacity as operator; or
  - to a participant by virtue of any agreement or instrument relating to such mine or mineral deposit and/or facilities; and
- the lien is limited to the relevant mine or mineral deposit and/or facilities;

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

any lien upon specific items of our or Rio Tinto's inventory or other goods, and proceeds inventory or other goods, securing our or Rio Tinto's obligations relating to bankers' acceptances, issued or created for our or Rio Tinto's account to facilitate the purchase, shipment or storage of the inventory or other goods;

any lien incurred or deposits made securing our or Rio Tinto's performance of tenders, bids, leases, statutory obligations, surety and appeal bonds, government contracts, performance and return-of-money bonds and other obligations of like nature incurred in the ordinary course of our or Rio Tinto's business;

any lien on any of our or Rio Tinto's property in favor of the Federal Government of the United States or the government of any state thereof, or the government of Australia or the government of any state or territory thereof, the United Kingdom, or the government of any member nation of the European Union, or any instrumentality of any of them, securing our or Rio Tinto's obligations under any contract or payments owed to such entity pursuant to applicable laws, rules, regulations or statutes;

any liens securing taxes or assessments or other applicable governmental charges or levies;

any liens securing industrial revenue, development or similar bonds issued by us or Rio Tinto, or for our or Rio Tinto's benefit, provided that the industrial revenue, development or similar bonds are non-recourse to us or Rio Tinto;



---

**Table of Contents**

the sale or other transfer of

any minerals in place, or for the future production of minerals, for a specified period of time or in any amount such that, the purchaser will realize from such sale or transfer a specified amount of money or minerals; or

any other interest in property that is commonly referred to as a production payment ;

any liens in favor of any company in the Rio Tinto Group;

any liens securing indebtedness for which we or Rio Tinto have paid money or deposited securities in an arrangement to discharge in full any liability relating to that indebtedness; and

any extension, renewal or replacement (or successive extensions, renewals or replacements), as a whole or in part, of any lien referred to above, so long as

the amount does not exceed the principal amount of the borrowed money secured by the lien which is to be extended, renewed or replaced; and

the extension, renewal or replacement lien is limited to all or a part of the same property, including improvements, that secured the lien to be extended, renewed or replaced. (*Section 1007*)

Under the indenture, the following are not considered liens securing indebtedness and so are not prevented by the restrictions:

any acquisition of any property or assets by us or Rio Tinto that is subject to any reservation that creates or reserves for the seller an interest in any metals or minerals in place or the proceeds from their sale;

any conveyance or assignment in which we or Rio Tinto convey or assign an interest in any metals or minerals in place or the proceeds from their sale; or

any lien upon any of our or Rio Tinto's wholly or partially owned or leased property or assets, to secure the payment of our or Rio Tinto's proportionate part of the development or operating expenses in realizing the metal or mineral resources of such property.

***Restrictions on Sales and Leasebacks***

Neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited will enter into any sale and leaseback transaction involving a property, other than as allowed by this covenant. A sale and leaseback transaction is an arrangement between us or Rio Tinto and a bank, insurance company or other lender or investor where we lease a property that we previously owned for more than 270 days and sold to a lender or investor or to any person to whom the lender or investor has advanced funds on the security of the principal property.

The restriction on sales and leasebacks does not apply to any sale and leaseback transaction between any companies of the Rio Tinto Group. It also does not apply to any lease with a term, including renewals, of three years or less. Further, the indenture does not restrict the ability of any subsidiary (other than Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited) to enter into sale and leaseback transactions. At the date of this prospectus, a substantial portion of our and Rio Tinto's consolidated assets is held directly by subsidiaries and so would not be subject to the covenant restricting sale and leaseback transactions.

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

The covenant allows us or Rio Tinto to enter into sale and leaseback transactions in two additional situations. First, we or Rio Tinto may enter sale and leaseback transactions if we could grant a lien on the property in an amount equal to the indebtedness attributable to the sale and leaseback transaction without being required to grant an equivalent or higher-ranking lien to the holders of the debt securities under the restriction on liens described above.

---

**Table of Contents**

Second, we or Rio Tinto may enter sales and leaseback transactions if, within one year of the transaction, we or Rio Tinto, as the case may be, invest an amount equal to at least the net proceeds of the sale of the principal property that we or Rio Tinto, as the case may be, lease in the transaction or the fair value of that property, whichever is greater. This amount must be invested in any of our or Rio Tinto's property or used to retire indebtedness for money that we borrowed, incurred or assumed that either has a maturity of 12 months or more from the date of incurrence of the indebtedness or which may be extended beyond 12 months from that date at our and Rio Tinto's option. (*Section 1008*)

**Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

The following discussion of defeasance and discharge will be applicable to a series of debt securities only if the prospectus supplement applicable to the series so states. (Article 13).

***Defeasance and Discharge***

We, Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited can legally release ourselves from any payment or other obligations on the debt securities, except for various obligations described below, if we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, in addition to other actions, put in place the following arrangements for you to be repaid:

We, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited must deposit in trust for the benefit of all other direct holders of the debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the debt securities on their various due dates.

We, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of counsel of recognized standing with respect to such matters confirming that either (A) there has been a change in U.S. federal income tax law or (B) we have received from, or there has been published by, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service a ruling in each case to the effect that we may make the above deposit without causing holders to be taxed on the debt securities any differently than if we did not make the deposit and just repaid the debt securities ourselves.

However, even if we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited take these actions, a number of our obligations relating to the debt securities will remain. These include the following obligations:

to register the transfer and exchange of debt securities;

to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities;

to maintain paying agencies; and

to hold money for payment in trust.

***Covenant Defeasance***

We, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited can be legally released from compliance with certain covenants, including those described under Restrictive Covenants and any that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and including the related Events of Default if we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, take all the steps described above under Defeasance and Discharge except that the opinion of counsel does not have to refer to a change in U.S. federal income tax laws or a ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Default and Related Matters**

#### ***Ranking***

The debt securities are not secured by any of our property or assets nor Rio Tinto's property or assets. Accordingly, holders of debt securities are unsecured creditors of Rio Tinto. The debt securities are not subordinated to any of our or Rio Tinto's other debt obligations and therefore they rank equally with all our and Rio Tinto's other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

#### ***Events of Default***

Holders will have special rights if an event of default occurs and is not cured, as described later in this subsection.

*What Is An Event of Default?* The term event of default means any of the following:

Neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited pay the principal or any premium on a debt security and, in the case of technical or administrative difficulties, only if such failure to pay persists for more than three business days. As used here, a business day is a week day on which financial institutions in New York and the applicable place of payment are open for business.

Neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited pay interest or any additional amounts on a debt security within 30 days of its due date.

Neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited make a deposit of any applicable sinking fund payment within 30 days of its due date, or any applicable longer period of grace.

We, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited remain in breach of a covenant or any other term of the indenture or series of debt securities for 90 days after we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be, receive a notice of default stating we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the trustee or holders of 25% of the principal amount of debt securities of the affected series.

We, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited file for bankruptcy or certain other events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur, unless, in the case of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, the reorganization is a voluntary winding up carried out in accordance with English or Australian statutory requirements as applicable and which results in a legal entity that is liable under the guarantees, and which owns the assets of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, respectively.

Our or Rio Tinto's other borrowings in principal amount of at least U.S.\$50,000,000 are accelerated by reason of a default and steps are taken to obtain repayment of these borrowings.

We or Rio Tinto fail to make a payment of principal of at least U.S.\$50,000,000 or fail to honor any guarantee or indemnity with respect to borrowings of at least U.S.\$50,000,000 and steps are taken to enforce either of these obligations.

Any mortgage, pledge or other charge granted by us or Rio Tinto in relation to any borrowing of at least U.S.\$50,000,000 becomes enforceable and steps are taken to enforce the mortgage, pledge or other charge, as the case may be.

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

Any other event of default described in the prospectus supplement occurs. (*Section 501*)

*Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs.* If an event of default has occurred and has not been cured, the trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of all the debt securities of that series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. A declaration of acceleration of maturity may be canceled by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series if we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio

## **Table of Contents**

Tinto Limited have paid the outstanding amounts, other than amounts due because of the acceleration of maturity, and we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited have satisfied certain other conditions. (*Section 502*)

Except in cases of default, where the trustee has some special duties, the trustee is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the trustee reasonable protection from expenses and liability. This protection is called an indemnity. (*Section 603*) If reasonable indemnity is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. These majority holders may also direct the trustee in performing any other action under the indenture. (*Section 512*)

Before bypassing the trustee and bringing a lawsuit or other formal legal action or taking other steps to enforce rights or protect interests relating to the debt securities, the following must occur:

The trustee must be given written notice that an event of default has occurred and remains uncured.

The holders of 25% in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of the relevant series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the default, and must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action.

The trustee must have not taken action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity and the trustee has not received an inconsistent direction from the holders of a majority in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities during that period. (*Section 507*)

However, such limitations do not apply to a suit instituted for the enforcement of payment of the principal of or interest on a debt security on or after the respective due dates. (*Section 508*).

***Street name and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee and to make or cancel a declaration of acceleration.***

We and Rio Tinto will furnish to the trustee every year a written statement of certain of our and Rio Tinto's officers certifying that, to their knowledge, we and Rio Tinto are in compliance with the indenture and the debt securities, or else specifying any default. (*Section 1005*)

### ***Regarding The Trustee***

If an event of default occurs, or an event occurs that would be an event of default if the requirements for giving default notice or the default having to exist for a specific period of time were disregarded, the trustee may be considered to have a conflicting interest with respect to the debt securities for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. In that case, the trustee may be required to resign as trustee under the applicable indenture and we or Rio Tinto would be required to appoint a successor trustee.

---

**Table of Contents**

**CLEARANCE AND SETTLEMENT**

**General**

Debt securities we issue may be held through one or more international and domestic clearing systems. The principal clearing systems we will use are the book-entry systems operated by The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, in the United States, Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme* in Luxembourg ( Clearstream, Luxembourg ) and Euroclear SA/NV ( Euroclear ) in Brussels, Belgium. These systems have established electronic securities and payment transfer, processing, depository and custodial links among themselves and others, either directly or through custodians and depositories. These links allow securities to be issued, held and transferred among the clearing systems without the physical transfer of certificates.

Special procedures to facilitate clearance and settlement have been established among these clearing systems to trade securities across borders in the secondary market. Where payments for registered securities in global form will be made in U.S. dollars, these procedures can be used for cross-market transfers and the securities will be cleared and settled on a delivery against payment basis.

Cross-market transfers of securities that are not in global form may be cleared and settled in accordance with other procedures that may be established among the clearing systems for these securities. Investors in securities that are issued outside of the United States, its territories and possessions must initially hold their interests through Euroclear, Clearstream, Luxembourg or the clearance system that is described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The policies of DTC, Clearstream, Luxembourg, and Euroclear will govern payments, transfers, exchange and other matters relating to the investor's interest in securities held by them. This is also true for any other clearance system that may be named in a prospectus supplement.

We have no responsibility for any aspect of the actions of DTC, Clearstream, Luxembourg or Euroclear or any of their direct or indirect participants. We have no responsibility for any aspect of the records kept by DTC, Clearstream, Luxembourg or Euroclear or any of their direct or indirect participants. We also do not supervise these systems in any way. This is also true for any other clearing system indicated in a prospectus supplement.

DTC, Clearstream, Luxembourg, Euroclear and their participants perform these clearance and settlement functions under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers. You should be aware that they are not obligated to perform these procedures and may modify them or discontinue them at any time.

The description of the clearing systems in this section reflects our understanding of the rules and procedures of DTC, Clearstream, Luxembourg and Euroclear as they are currently in effect. These systems could change their rules and procedures at any time.

**As used in this section, any reference to securities also refers to book-entry securities issued in respect of securities in bearer form.**

**The Clearing Systems**

***DTC***

DTC has advised us as follows:

DTC is:

a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;

a banking corporation within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;

a member of the Federal Reserve System;



**Table of Contents**

a clearing corporation within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and

a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between participants through electronic book-entry changes to accounts of its participants. This eliminates the need for physical movement of certificates.

Participants in DTC include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations and may include certain other organizations. DTC is partially owned by some of these participants or their representatives.

Indirect access to the DTC system is also available to banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that have relationships with participants.

The rules applicable to DTC and DTC participants are on file with the SEC.

***Clearstream, Luxembourg***

Clearstream, Luxembourg has advised us as follows:

Clearstream, Luxembourg is a duly licensed bank organized as a *société anonyme* incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg and is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector (*Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier*).

Clearstream, Luxembourg holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among them. It does so through electronic book-entry changes to the accounts of its customers. This eliminates the need for physical movement of certificates.

Clearstream, Luxembourg provides other services to its participants, including safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and lending and borrowing of securities. It interfaces with the domestic markets in over 30 countries through established depositary and custodial relationships.

Clearstream, Luxembourg's customers include worldwide securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations and may include professional financial intermediaries. Its U.S. customers are limited to securities brokers and dealers and banks.

Indirect access to the Clearstream, Luxembourg system is also available to others that clear through Clearstream, Luxembourg customers or that have custodial relationships with its customers, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies.

***Euroclear***

Euroclear has advised us as follows:

## Edgar Filing: RIO TINTO PLC - Form 424B3

Euroclear is incorporated under the laws of Belgium as a bank and is subject to regulation by the Belgian Banking, Finance and Insurance Commission (*Commission Bancaire et Financière et des Assurances*) and the National Bank of Belgium (*Banque Nationale de Belgique*).

Euroclear holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among them. It does so through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates.

Euroclear provides other services to its customers, including credit custody, lending and borrowing of securities and tri-party collateral management. It interfaces with the domestic markets of several other countries.

## **Table of Contents**

Euroclear customers include banks, including central banks, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations and may include certain other professional financial intermediaries

Indirect access to the Euroclear system is also available to others that clear through Euroclear customers or that have relationships with Euroclear customers.

All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis. This means that specific certificates are not matched to specific securities clearance accounts.

### ***Other Clearing Systems***

We may choose any other clearing system for a particular series of debt securities. The clearance and settlement procedures for the clearing system we choose will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Primary Distribution**

The distribution of debt securities will be cleared through one or more of the clearing systems that we have described above or any other clearing system that is specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Payment for debt securities will be made on a delivery versus payment or free delivery basis. These payment procedures will be more fully described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Clearance and settlement procedures may vary from one series of debt securities to another according to the currency that is chosen for the specific series of debt securities. Customary clearance and settlement procedures are described below.

We will submit applications to the relevant system or systems for the debt securities to be accepted for clearance. The clearance numbers that are applicable to each clearance system will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### ***Clearance and Settlement Procedures – DTC***

DTC participants that hold securities through DTC on behalf of investors will follow the settlement practices applicable to U.S. corporate debt obligations in DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System.

Debt securities will be credited to the securities custody accounts of these DTC participants against payment in the same-day funds, for payments in U.S. dollars, on the settlement date. For payments in a currency other than U.S. dollars, securities will be credited free of payment on the settlement date.

### ***Clearance and Settlement Procedures – Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg***

We understand that investors that hold their securities through Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg accounts will follow the settlement procedures that are applicable to conventional Eurobonds in registered form.

Debt securities will be credited to the securities custody accounts of Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg participants on the business day following the settlement date, for value on the settlement date. They will be credited either free of payment or against payment for value on the settlement date.

### **Secondary Market Trading**

#### ***Trading between DTC Participants***

We understand that secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC's rules. Secondary market trading will be settled using procedures applicable to U.S. corporate debt obligations in DTC's Same-Day Funds Settlement System.



