

Iron ore  
152-158 St Georges Terrace  
Perth 6000  
Western Australia  
T + 61 (8) 9327 2000

Rasmus Moerch  
Assistant Director, Licensing  
Economic Regulation Authority  
PO Box 8469  
PERTH BC WA 6849

7 August 2013

Dear Mr Moerch

**Water Licence Review: Public Consultation**

Rio Tinto is the world's second largest iron ore producer and contributes approximately a quarter of the world's seaborne iron ore trade. Rio Tinto's most significant iron ore resource base is located in the Pilbara in Western Australia, with further operations in Canada and development projects in Guinea (west Africa) and India. Rio Tinto's iron ore corporate headquarters are located in Perth, Western Australia.

Rio Tinto's Pilbara iron ore operations consist of a network of 14 mines, three shipping terminals and the largest privately owned heavy freight railway in Australia. Through Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd, Rio Tinto is also a licensed water service provider, providing potable water and wastewater services to the towns of Dampier, Tom Price and Paraburdoo. The licence also now includes the provision of water to the West Pilbara Water Supply Scheme from the Bungaroo Creek borefield, for Rio Tinto's own use in accordance with the Agreement between Rio Tinto and the Western Australia Government.

Rio Tinto welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the *Water Licence Review: Public Consultation*.

The proposed substitution of the existing Hamersley Iron Water Services Operating Licence with a new version is intended to align with the new *Water Services Act 2012 (the Act)*, which will come into operation later this year. The principal Act has been developed through a highly consultative process lead by the Department of Water and is welcomed by Rio Tinto.

Similarly, the Economic Regulation Authority has sought to align its Water Services Operating Licences with the Act through a consultative process with licensees and now via public consultation. Rio Tinto welcomes this consultative approach. Following consultation with the Authority, Rio Tinto believes that the licence closely reflects the intent of the principal Act.

This process has also clarified the operation of Clause 28 (Provision of water services outside operating area). Rio Tinto understands that notification under Clause 28.1 (a) should include description of the type of service, the location of service and indication of any intent to seek an exemption if applicable. It is understood that, should an exemption be pursued, Clause 28.1 (b) would only be exercised after the relevant exemption determination.

For further information on the issues raised in this letter, please contact Mike Harold, Principal Advisor Water Policy on 08 62131174 or [mike.harold@riotinto.com](mailto:mike.harold@riotinto.com); or Tegan Campbell, Compliance Advisor on 08 6213 1219 or [tegan.campbell@riotinto.com](mailto:tegan.campbell@riotinto.com)

Yours sincerely

**Momcilo Andric**  
**General Manager Rio Tinto Iron Ore Utilities**