

RIO TINTO PLC  
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Subject Company: Rio Tinto plc

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The following is gateway language that appears on the Offer for Rio Tinto section of the BHP Billiton website.

#### **IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER**

Offers by BHP Billiton Limited for all the outstanding ordinary shares of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited ( **Rio Tinto** ) (the **Offers** ).

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The information contained in this part of the website is subject to, and must be read in conjunction with, all other publicly available information, including, where relevant any fuller disclosure document published by BHP Billiton. Any person at any time acquiring securities must do so only on the basis of such person's own judgment as to the merits or the suitability of the securities for its purposes and only on such information as is contained in such public information having taken all such professional or other advice as it considers necessary or appropriate in the circumstances and not in reliance on the information contained herein.

#### **Access to the Offers**

Please read this notice carefully. It applies to all persons who view this part of the website and, depending upon who you are and where you live, it may affect your rights. This part of the site contains information on the Offers. Please note that, as the Offers progress, this disclaimer may be altered or updated. You should read it in full each time you visit this part of the website.

For regulatory reasons, we have to ensure you are aware of the appropriate regulations for the country which you are in. To allow you to view details relating to the Offers, you have to read the following then press  I agree . If you are unable to agree you should press  I disagree and you will not be able to view any such details.

#### Overseas persons

Viewing this information may not be lawful in certain jurisdictions. In other jurisdictions, only certain categories of person are allowed to view this information.

The distribution of documents in relation to the Offers in jurisdictions other than the United Kingdom, Australia or the United States may be restricted by the laws and/or regulations of those jurisdictions or may subject BHP Billiton or its affiliates to registration requirements within such jurisdictions. Failure to comply with any such restrictions may constitute a violation of the laws and/or regulations of any such jurisdiction.

Accordingly, the information on this part of the website must not be viewed if you are in or a resident of any such jurisdiction where to do so would constitute a breach of securities laws in that jurisdiction or which would subject BHP Billiton or any of its affiliates to any registration requirement within such jurisdiction. For the avoidance of doubt, this applies if you are in or a resident of Japan.

If you are not permitted to view the information on this part of the website, or viewing the information would result in a breach of the above, or you are in any doubt as to whether you are permitted to view the information, please exit this webpage by clicking on the  I Disagree box.

#### *Information Relating to the US Offer for Rio Tinto plc*

In connection with the offer and sale of securities BHP Billiton would issue to Rio Tinto plc US shareholders and Rio Tinto plc ADS holders, BHP Billiton has filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the **SEC** ) a Registration Statement on Form F-4 (the **Registration Statement** ), which contains a prospectus (the **Prospectus** ), and will file additional relevant materials with the SEC. This communication is not a substitute for the Registration Statement or the Prospectus that BHP Billiton has filed, or any amendments or supplements to these documents BHP Billiton may file, with the SEC.

U.S. INVESTORS AND U.S. HOLDERS OF RIO TINTO PLC SECURITIES AND ALL HOLDERS OF RIO TINTO PLC ADSs ARE URGED TO READ THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT, THE PROSPECTUS AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM AND/OR FILED WITH THE SEC REGARDING THE POTENTIAL TRANSACTION, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS TO THOSE DOCUMENTS, WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Investors and security holders will be able to obtain a free copy of the Registration Statement and the Prospectus as well as other relevant documents filed with the SEC at the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of such documents may also be obtained from BHP Billiton without charge.

*Information for US Holders of Rio Tinto Limited Shares*

BHP Billiton Limited is not required to, and does not plan to, prepare and file with the SEC a registration statement in respect of the Rio Tinto Limited Offer. Accordingly, Rio Tinto Limited shareholders should carefully consider the following:

The Rio Tinto Limited Offer will be an exchange offer made for the securities of a foreign company. Such offer is subject to disclosure requirements of a foreign country that are different from those of the United States. Financial statements included in the document will be prepared in accordance with foreign accounting standards that may not be comparable to the financial statements of United States companies.

*Information Relating to the US Offer for Rio Tinto plc and the Rio Tinto Limited Offer for Rio Tinto shareholders located in the US*

It may be difficult for you to enforce your rights and any claim you may have arising under the U.S. federal securities laws, since the issuers are located in a foreign country, and some or all of their officers and directors may be residents of foreign countries. You may not be able to sue a foreign company or its officers or directors in a foreign court for violations of the U.S. securities laws. It may be difficult to compel a foreign company and its affiliates to subject themselves to a U.S. court's judgment.

You should be aware that BHP Billiton may purchase securities of either Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited otherwise than under the Offers, such as in open market or privately negotiated purchases.

**Public information**

Information about Rio Tinto and Alcan Inc. included in the information contained in this part of the website is based on public information which has not been independently verified. Certain statistical and other information about BHP Billiton included in the information contained in this part of the website has been sourced from publicly available third party sources. As such it presents the views of those third parties, but may not necessarily correspond to the views held by BHP Billiton.

**Forward-looking statements**

It is possible that this part of the website could or may contain forward-looking statements that are based on current expectations or beliefs, as well as assumptions about future events. Forward-looking statements include any synergy statements and, without limitation, other statements typically containing words such as *intends*, *expects*, *anticipates*, *targets*, *plans*, *estimates* and words of similar import. Such forward-looking information includes, without limitation, the statements as to the impact of the proposed combination on revenues, costs and earnings. Because of their very nature, they are subject to a number of known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, performance and achievements to differ materially from any expected future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are based on numerous assumptions regarding BHP Billiton's present and future business strategies and the environments in which BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto will operate in the future and such assumptions may or may not prove to be correct.

There are several factors which could cause actual results or performance to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results or performance to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the presence of a competitive proposal in relation to Rio Tinto, satisfaction of any conditions to the Offers, including the receipt of required regulatory and anti-trust approvals, Rio Tinto's willingness to enter into any proposed transaction, the successful completion of the Offers, as well as additional factors, such as BHP Billiton's ability to successfully combine the businesses of BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto and to realise expected synergies from that combination, changes in global, political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory forces, future exchange and interest rates, changes in tax rates, future business combinations or dispositions and the outcome of litigation and government actions. Additional risks and factors that could cause BHP Billiton results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in BHP Billiton's filings with the SEC, which are available at the SEC's website (<http://www.sec.gov>). Other unknown or unpredictable factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. The information which is contained in this part of the website is subject to change without notice and BHP Billiton expressly disclaims any obligation (except as required by law, the Listing Rules of ASX Limited or the rules of the UK Listing Authority and the London Stock Exchange) or undertaking to disseminate any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement contained in this part of the website, regardless of whether those statements are affected as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

#### **Basis of access to the Offers**

Access to the electronic version of any documents relating to the Offers is being made available on this part of the website in good faith and for information purposes only. Any person seeking access to this part of BHP Billiton's website represents and warrants to BHP Billiton that they are doing so for information purposes only.

Rio Tinto shareholders and Rio Tinto ADS holders should seek advice from an independent financial adviser as to the suitability of any action for the individual concerned. Any action required by a shareholder or ADS holder in connection with the Offers will only be set out in documents sent to or made available to Rio Tinto shareholders and Rio Tinto ADS holders and any decision made by such shareholders or ADS holders should be made solely and only on the basis of information provided in those documents.

#### **Responsibility**

The directors of BHP Billiton accept responsibility for the information relating to BHP Billiton contained in the documents relating to the Offers available on this part of the website, save that the only responsibility accepted by them in respect of the information relating to Rio Tinto (and its subsidiaries, subsidiary undertakings and controlled companies), which has been compiled from public sources, is to ensure that such information has been correctly and fairly reproduced and represented. Subject as aforesaid, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this part of the website for which they are responsible is, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the directors of BHP Billiton, in accordance with the facts and contains no omission likely to affect its import.

Subject to any continuing obligations under applicable law or any relevant listing rules, BHP Billiton expressly disclaims any obligation to disseminate, after the date of the posting of the Offers on this part of the website, any updates or revisions to any statements in the Offers to reflect any change in expectations or events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statements are based.

THE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE OFFERS MAY NOT BE DOWNLOADED BY ANY PERSON EITHER IN WHOLE OR IN PART WHERE TO DO SO WOULD OR MAY CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF ANY APPLICABLE LOCAL LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

**Confirmation of understanding and acceptance of disclaimer**

I have read and understood the disclaimer set out above. I understand that it may affect my rights. I agree to be bound by its terms. I confirm that I am permitted to proceed to this part of the site.

I Disagree / I Agree