

# RIO TINTO

## News release...

Date: 20 October 2004

Ref: PR387g

*Rio Tinto's 75.7 per cent owned subsidiary, Coal & Allied Industries Limited, issued the following news release in Australia. All dollars are Australian currency.*

## Coal and Allied production report for the quarter ended 30 September 2004

	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	12 months
'000 tonnes (100% basis) <sup>(a)</sup>	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003
<b><u>Hunter Valley Operations</u></b>						
Thermal coal production	2,028	2,620	2,255	2,738	2,838	9,146
Semi-soft coking coal production	875	381	371	729	689	2,862
<b><u>Mount Thorley Operations</u></b>						
Thermal coal production	416	433	514	710	722	1,720
Semi-soft coking coal production	369	377	158	240	258	1,432
<b><u>Bengalla Mine</u></b>						
Thermal coal production	1,122	2,008	1,075	1,525	1,737	6,203
<b><u>Warkworth Mine</u></b>						
Thermal coal production	1,212	1,371	1,217	1,394	1,381	5,369
Semi-soft coking coal production	127	93	237	447	479	500
<b>Total coal production</b>	<b>6,147</b>	<b>7,284</b>	<b>5,826</b>	<b>7,784</b>	<b>8,105</b>	<b>27,232</b>
<b>Total sales ('000 tonnes) <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>6,802</b>	<b>7,278</b>	<b>6,424</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>7,931</b>	<b>27,887</b>

(a) Sales relate only to coal mined by the operations and exclude traded coal.

Third quarter production from all mines was above the second quarter of 2004 and the corresponding period of 2003. Moving from a five-day to seven-day roster at Mt Thorley/Warkworth continued to deliver significant improvement.

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Port capacity rationing arrangements, introduced in the second quarter of 2004, helped to manage the Newcastle ship queue successfully.

During the quarter there was no exploration activity.

Coal & Allied continued work on the development of the Mount Pleasant deposit (Coal & Allied 100 per cent).

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