

# Amrun project Newsletter

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**The Amrun project was approved by Rio Tinto in late November 2015. The project involves construction of a bauxite mine and associated processing and port facilities approximately 40 kilometres south of the Embley River near Boyd Point on Cape York Peninsula.**

Once operational, Amrun will replace production from Rio Tinto's existing East Weipa mine and increase annual bauxite exports.

Planned initial output is 22.8 million tonnes per year with a range of options for future expansions up to 50 million tonnes per year.

## Amrun project taking shape

**The remote Amrun project site on Western Cape York is now a hive of activity as Rio Tinto expands its Australian bauxite mining capacity.**

The project site is located on the southern side of the Embley River, 40 kilometres from Rio Tinto's existing Weipa bauxite mining operations and 40 kilometres north of Aurukun.

Funding for the Amrun project was approved by Rio Tinto in late November 2015 and, depending on production rates, will extend bauxite mining operations in the region for another 40 years.

Project priorities in the 12 months following approval were to establish all weather access routes, build supporting river infrastructure, establish accommodation and office facilities at the Amrun project site and procure long lead items.

Key milestones to date include the completion of the 40 kilometre sealed access road, expansion of a 464-bed temporary accommodation facility, establishment of the administration offices in the Mining Infrastructure Area (MIA) and establishment of site services such as medical and security, bus and airline transport.

Rio Tinto Amrun project general manager Marcia Hanrahan said the completion of the sealed access road connecting the Hey River ferry terminal to the Amrun site was a significant achievement.

"This is a 40 kilometre road that needed to be cleared, layered, trimmed and sealed in time for the onset of the wet season and is a crucial link to transport people and materials to and from the site," she said.



River facilities on both the Humbug (Weipa) and Hey River side of the Embley River have reached staged completion, which will allow a roll on-roll off vessel to transport the workforce and materials smoothly across the river from early 2017.

Contractor partners working on the Amrun project have established offices at the designated MIA and a 150-person training facility was commissioned in November to allow inductions and other training to be delivered on site.

Earthworks, underground services and some permanent buildings have been completed for the permanent, 528-bed Amrun accommodation village.

Marcia said an important element of the permanent accommodation village was the Traditional Owner area, which will showcase the artefacts and other culturally significant items impacted by the project development along with provide information about Wik-Waya history, people and traditions.

"The Traditional Owner area is the first thing that people will see when they come to site to work or as a visitor and will serve as a powerful reminder of our responsibility to respect the land and the culture of the



Wik-Waya Traditional Owners of the area," she said.

"There are considerable challenges in mobilising and supporting a large workforce in a remote area without existing infrastructure and the Amrun project team has made great progress to date.

"We are on track to transport and accommodate our peak workforce as we ramp up construction of the mine, processing and wharf facilities during 2017 in time for first bauxite shipment in early 2019."

*Top: The completion of the sealed access road connecting the Amrun project site with the Hey River ferry terminal is a significant milestone.*

*Top right: Work on the remote Amrun project site has begun.*

## Supporting Indigenous employment

### Traditional Owners and other Indigenous community members on the Western Cape are actively contributing to the Amrun project.

More than 50 Indigenous people are working on the project in a range of roles including land and sea advisers, labourers and trades assistants.

Amrun project Human Resources manager Briony McNeil said Rio Tinto has been operating on Cape York for more than 40 years and the Amrun project extended opportunities for local people to participate in its operations.

“We understand our operations play a significant role in creating sustainable employment and economic opportunities for our neighbouring communities and we are making sure the Traditional Owners of the land, and those from other Indigenous communities on the Western Cape, continue to benefit from our operations,” she said.

Rio Tinto requires contractor partners on the Amrun project to submit their plans for encouraging Indigenous participation through training, employment and business opportunities.

The employment of Aurukun residents on the Amrun project has been further facilitated by a new bus service, known as the Community Commute.

The bus transports people living in Aurukun to and from work at the Amrun site, a distance of approximately 40 kilometres.

“Providing this bus service allows Traditional Owners and others living in the Aurukun community to stay living in the community while working on the project during construction and into operations,” Briony said.

Another initiative has seen Indigenous people from a number of Cape York communities participate in a Job Preview programme and experience the range of roles available to support the accommodation village.

“We’ve held four sessions where participants stay in the temporary camp for 24 hours and are exposed to the different roles available and experience different aspects of village life,” she said.

“We really wanted to create an experience where people could see and feel what it was like before they made an informed decision about working here.

“We have a very positive response and a number of Job Preview participants are now working through recruitment processes for positions with the village operator.”

“We really wanted to create an experience where people could see and feel what it was like before they made an informed decision about working here.”

**Briony McNeil**, Amrun project Human Resources manager



*Pictured left: Traditional Owner Edmund Woolla engaged in cultural site recording and protection works for the Amrun project.*

*Below: Traditional Owners participated in Job Preview programme to gain an insight into roles available to support the accommodation village.*



## Delivering Amrun together

**Rio Tinto employees and Wik-Waya Traditional Owners spent many years leading up to Amrun approval working together to ensure the project was developed in a way that met cultural and business aspirations.**

Agreement on how to manage these important aspects of the project was documented in the Communities, Heritage and Environment Management Plan (CHEMP), which was endorsed by Traditional Owners in 2014 and is an integral component of the project’s feasibility study.

As part of the CHEMP implementation, cultural camps are held each year at Amban (an important meeting place for Wik-Waya people), to build relationships, share knowledge and capture important information to help manage the impact of the project.

Two cultural camps were held at Amban in 2016.

The first, in July, brought together Traditional Owners and members of the Rio Tinto Weipa operations team as well as the Amrun project team. They worked on cultural mapping, videography and soundscaping to document changes to the landscape over time.

A second camp held in the September school holidays saw Traditional Owners, their families, and approximately 30 Aurukun school children, including some home from boarding school, spend five days at Amban with Rio Tinto employees.

Indigenous Employment & Development superintendent Lee Darvell said camp activities were designed to highlight significant aspects of

local Aboriginal cultural knowledge and Rio Tinto mining processes on Country related to the Amrun project.

“They include cultural activities documenting and understanding appropriate cultural knowledge on site, highlighting mining industry processes and building awareness of career pathways,” she said.

“In doing so, we are building and nurturing strong relationships with future Traditional Owners.”

*Traditional Owners, school children and Rio Tinto employees spent five days together at a cultural camp in September.*



## Project progress

Major construction tasks	Status
Project engineering	● On track
River facilities	● Staged handover for use
Boyd Accommodation Village	● On track
Rail mounted machines	● Engineering phase
Hey River Boyd Road	● Complete
Site development and stockyard bulk earthworks	● On track
Port and shiploader construction	● Engineering phase
Power station and switchyard construction	● Engineering phase
Dam construction	● Engineering phase
Process facility construction	● Engineering phase

## Engaging with Traditional Owners

**The Amrun project is located on Wik-Waya Traditional Land and respect for land and culture underpins all construction activities.**

People working on the Amrun project are welcomed to Country (an important cultural practice) by Wik-Waya Elder Tony Kerindun, with support from other Traditional Owners.

Uncle Tony has also helped facilitate a number of other activities between the Traditional Owners and the Amrun construction workforce.

Those staying in the village on Sundays have participated in recreational activities with Traditional Owners at Boyd Bay. These have included catch and release fishing, walks and relaxing on the beach.

“These Sunday afternoon activities have been a great success, with up to 20 village residents participating each week,” said Grant Lindner, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management site manager for the Amrun project.

“It is important to provide recreational activities to allow project team members working at Amrun to enjoy the natural beauty of the area in a way that is respectful to Traditional Owners and their significant cultural places,” he said.

*Pictured below: Traditional Owner Kathy Owokran (centre) with Amrun team members Jacinta Williamson (left) and Judy Jarrot (right) during Sunday afternoon recreation activities.*

*Pictured bottom: New Amrun project team members are welcomed to Country by Wik-Waya Elder Uncle Tony Kerindun.*



## Workforce mobilising at Amrun

**Approximately 1,100 people have been inducted to work on the Amrun site in the 12 months following project approval.**

While not all 1,100 are on site at any one time, this total number reflects the breadth of activity undertaken at the site over the year.

Approximately 450 people are based at the Amrun project site at a time and are accommodated at the temporary accommodation village, with capacity for another 70 people in an accommodation facility on the Weipa side of the river.

In addition to a new bus service that transports construction workforce living in Aurukun to and from work at the Amrun site, Rio Tinto has also chartered flights from Cairns twice a week.

“We understand how important it is for Weipa residents to have access to commercial flights so we’ve chartered flights to minimise the impact of our project workforce commute on the local community,” said Briony McNeil, Amrun project Human Resources manager.

Once Amrun is built, the operational workforce will live in Weipa as Rio Tinto remains committed to Weipa as the base for its world class bauxite mining operations and the home for its residential workforce.



# 1,100

people inducted to work on the Amrun site in 12 months from project approval.

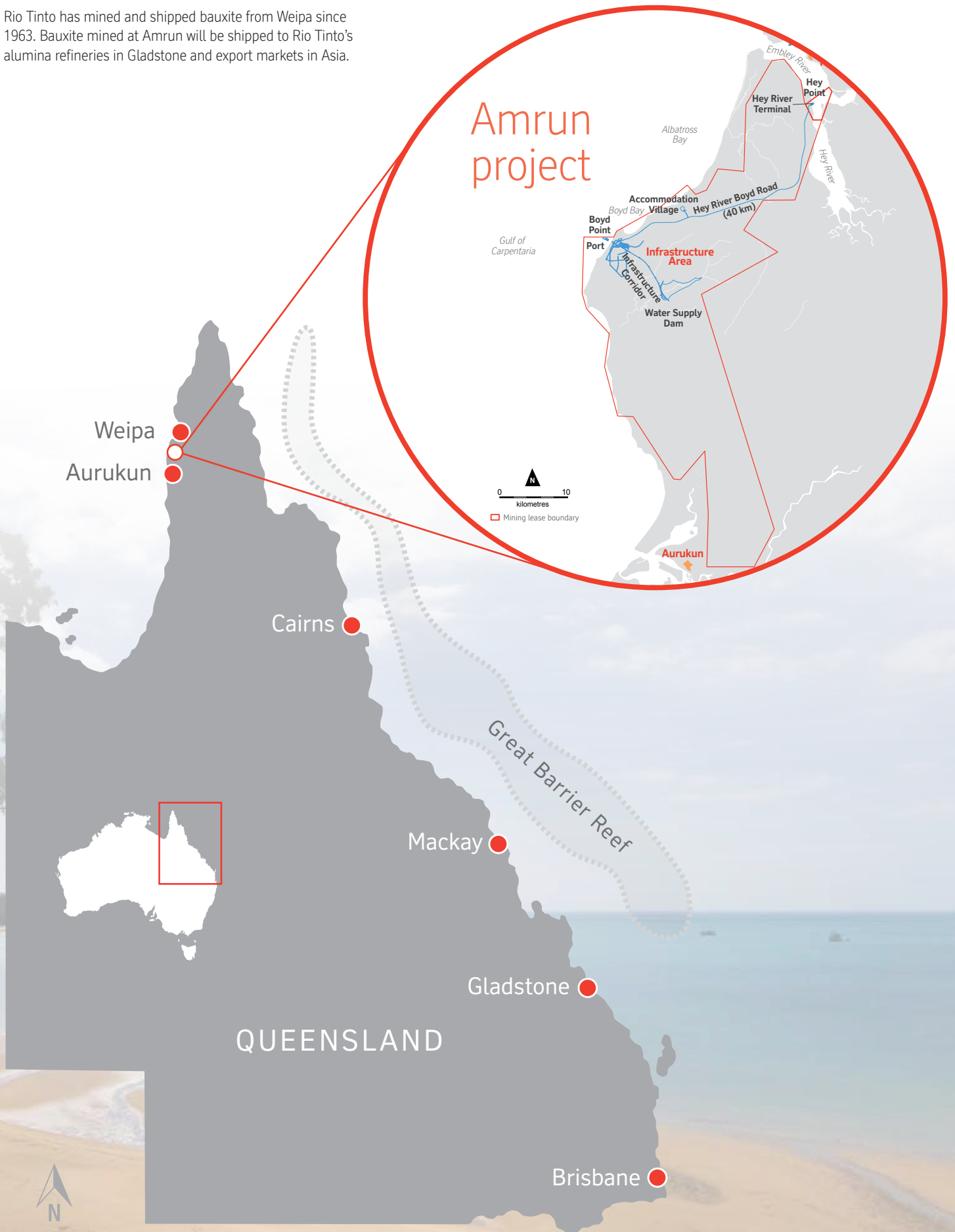


# 450

people accommodated on site at the Amrun project site temporary accommodation village at any time.

# Mining operations

Rio Tinto has mined and shipped bauxite from Weipa since 1963. Bauxite mined at Amrun will be shipped to Rio Tinto's alumina refineries in Gladstone and export markets in Asia.



# Project snapshot

## Construction



**COST**

**A\$2.6 billion**



**FIRST PRODUCTION**

**H1 2019**



**EMPLOYMENT**

**1,100 peak**

### CONTRIBUTION

**\$108 million**  
Western Cape York

**\$270 million**  
Far North Queensland

**\$1.5 billion**  
Queensland

**\$2 billion**  
Australia

## Operations



**CONTRIBUTION**

**\$1.3 billion**

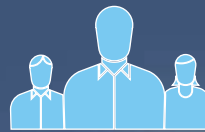
annually to Queensland economy



**CAPACITY**

**22.8 million**

tonnes per annum



**EMPLOYMENT**

**1,400 roles**

across Weipa operations

### CUSTOMERS

Rio Tinto refineries in Gladstone and export markets, mainly in Asia.



## Contact us

### Supplier information

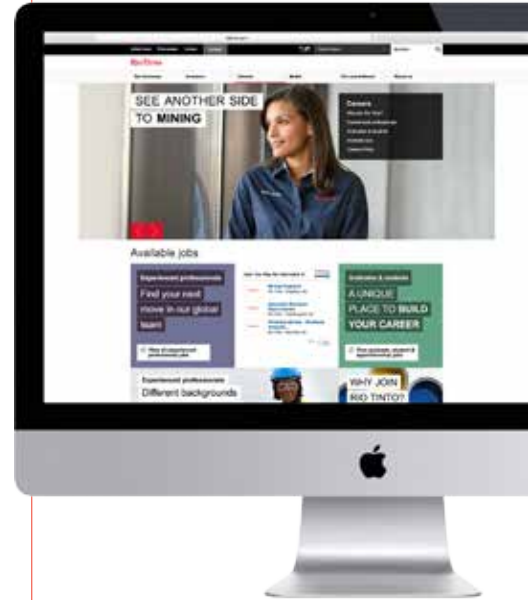
The project has partnered with Industry Capability Network (ICN) to establish a Gateway web portal – <http://amrun.icn.org.au> which includes information on:

- ⊙ Any upcoming opportunities
- ⊙ Scopes of work for subcontractor packages
- ⊙ Contact details of awarded contractors
- ⊙ Far North Queensland indigenous business directory
- ⊙ Supplier fact sheet.

### Operations employment

Employment during Amrun operations will be with Rio Tinto.

Visit the Rio Tinto Careers page for information about working with us – <http://www.riotinto.com/careers/>



## Community feedback

Phone: 1800 707 633 or email: [amrun.enquiries@riotinto.com](mailto:amrun.enquiries@riotinto.com)

See more at: <http://www.riotinto.com/amrun>