

# RIO TINTO

## News release...

Date: 17 January 2007

Ref: PR508g

*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 & Allied production report for the quarter ended 31 December 2006

'000 tonnes (100% basis)	CNA Interest	4Q 2005	1Q 2006	2Q 2006	3Q 2006	4Q 2006	12 months 2005	12 months 2006
<b>Hunter Valley Operations</b>	100%							
Thermal coal production		2,651	2,386	3,136	2,435	<b>2,264</b>	10,341	<b>10,221</b>
Semi-soft coking coal production		378	419	350	419	<b>616</b>	2,033	<b>1,804</b>
<b>Mount Thorley Operations</b>	80%							
Thermal coal production		529	969	582	494	<b>857</b>	2,695	<b>2,902</b>
Semi-soft coking coal production		281	291	325	253	<b>124</b>	1,267	<b>993</b>
<b>Bengalla Mine</b>	40%							
Thermal coal production		2,053	1088	1,406	1,618	<b>1,433</b>	5,965	<b>5,545</b>
<b>Warkworth Mine</b>	55.6							
Thermal coal production		1,495	1,759	1,766	1,803	<b>1,686</b>	5,946	<b>7,014</b>
Semi-soft coking coal production		67	11	96	90	<b>130</b>	347	<b>327</b>
<b>Total coal production</b>		<b>7,452</b>	<b>6,922</b>	<b>7,661</b>	<b>7,112</b>	<b>7,110</b>	<b>28,594</b>	<b>28,806</b>
<b>Total sales ('000 tonnes)<sup>(a)</sup></b>		<b>7,529</b>	<b>7,306</b>	<b>6,850</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>6,450</b>	<b>29,042</b>	<b>27,634</b>
<b>Coal &amp; Allied share:</b>								
Share of coal production		5,365	5,231	5,809	5,151	<b>5,248</b>	21,428	<b>21,439</b>
Share of coal sales		5,573	5,528	5,116	4,997	<b>4,769</b>	21,950	<b>20,410</b>

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

*Production figures are sometimes more precise than the rounded numbers shown, hence small difference may result between the total of the quarter figures and the full year figures.*

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Total coal production for the quarter and the full year 2006 was in line with the previous year and the previous quarter. Along with other Hunter Valley producers, shipments were constrained by significant congestion at the Port of Newcastle causing delays, coal handling costs and impacts throughout the production process.

The capacity balancing system at the Port of Newcastle ceased to operate as at 31 December 2006 and the port has operated on a take or pay basis from 1 January 2007.

Coal & Allied commenced a feasibility study into the potential development of the Mount Pleasant project (Coal & Allied 100 per cent), adjacent to Bengalla Mine in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The study is expected to take 12 months to complete.

There was no exploration activity during the quarter.

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