

# Tailings Policy

**HSE-A-002**

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<b>Group:</b> Policy	<b>Function:</b> Safety, Technical & Projects	<b>No. of Pages:</b> 2
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**Supersedes:** N/A

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<b>Owner:</b> Head of Group Technical Mining	<b>Approver:</b> Group Executive, Safety, Technical & Projects	<b>Target Audience:</b> All Rio Tinto employees involved in the design, construction, operation or closure of tailings storage facilities including employees that engage with local communities on tailings management
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**Direct linkages to other relevant policies, standards, procedures or guidance notes:**

- The Way We Work
- HSES Policy and HSES Standards
- Risk Management Policy
- Human Rights Policy
- Business Integrity Standard

**Document purpose:**

This policy reinforces Rio Tinto's commitment to the protection of the health and safety of people, host communities, the environment, and water conservation to the highest standards in all our operations and locations. Part of this commitment relates to the safe and sustainable management of waste from our mining operations, including tailings. To achieve this, we have a comprehensive approach to managing and assuring all of our tailings storage facilities throughout their lifecycle from design to closure.

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# Tailings Policy

## **Governance, management and assurance**

At Rio Tinto our objective for tailings management is to strive for zero fatalities and the elimination of catastrophic failures. We are committed to preventing or mitigating the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of our activities.

We are governed by our internal standards, which outline clear tailings management accountabilities and processes. We also align with all relevant tailings laws and regulations. Rio Tinto's practices are also aligned with the International Council on Mining and Metals' tailings governance framework and the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management.

Rio Tinto has a structured and comprehensive approach to managing and providing assurance on our tailings storage facilities throughout their lifecycle, from planning and design through to construction, operation, closure and beyond.

All of Rio Tinto's tailings storage facilities are monitored. We engage external design engineers for each facility, and independent reviews are undertaken by other external engineers. Additional assurance is provided by our technical specialists, with support from external experts.

## **Collaboration, engagement and transparency**

Rio Tinto's business standards, systems and processes support our commitment to active participation of all our leaders, employees and contractors in proactive, safe and sustainable tailings management, helping to protect the health and safety of our people, communities and environment in every region we work in.

We maintain emergency response capability, we develop plans in consultation with local communities and emergency services, and we conduct exercises to test our emergency response procedures. Rio Tinto will develop long-term recovery actions, in consultation with community partners, in the event of catastrophic tailings failure.

Rio Tinto collaborates with our industry peers and academia on technical and operational tailings matters, and incorporates lessons learned from internal and external sources into our existing tailings management processes. We support and develop technical people at our operations through globally-recognised training opportunities. We actively participate on industry committees and global initiatives, and sponsor research into leading practice tailings management.

Transparency and mutual trust with our stakeholders about our tailings and how they are managed is our main focus. We engage with stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of our tailings storage facilities from design to closure, and we will continue to make regular public disclosures relating to how we manage tailings.