

RIO TINTO PLC  
Form POSASR  
May 17, 2011  
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 17, 2011

Registration No. 333 -151839

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Post-Effective Amendment No. 2

to

## Form F-3

## REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**RIO TINTO FINANCE  
(USA) LIMITED**

(ABN 84 062 129 551)

*(Exact Name of Registrant*

*as Specified in its Charter)*

**Australia**

**RIO TINTO PLC**

*(Exact Name of Registrant*

*as Specified in its Charter)*

**England and Wales**

*(State or Other Jurisdiction of*

*Incorporation of Organization)*

**RIO TINTO LIMITED**

(ABN 96 004 458 404)

*(Exact Name of Registrant*

*as Specified in its Charter)*

**Australia**

*(State or Other Jurisdiction of*

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<i>(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation of Organization)</i>	<b>Not Applicable</b>	<i>Incorporation of Organization)</i>
<b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>2 Eastbourne Terrace</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<i>(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)</i>	<b>London W2 6LG</b>	<i>(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)</i>
<b>Level 33</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>Level 33</b>
<b>120 Collins Street</b>	<b>Tel. No.: 011-44-20-7781-2000</b>	<b>120 Collins Street</b>
<b>Melbourne, Victoria 3000</b>	<i>(Address and Telephone Number of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)</i>	<b>Melbourne, Victoria 3000</b>
<b>Australia</b>		<b>Australia</b>
<b>Tel. No.: 011-61-3-9283-3333</b>		<b>Tel. No.: 011-61-3-9283-3333</b>
<i>(Address and Telephone Number of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)</i>		<i>(Address and Telephone Number of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)</i>
	<b>Shannon Crompton</b>	
	<b>Rio Tinto Services Inc.</b>	
	<b>80 State Street</b>	
	<b>Albany, NY 12207-2543</b>	
	<b>Tel. No.: +1 801-583-6707</b>	
	<i>(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Agent for Service)</i>	
	<b>Please send copies of all communications to:</b>	
<b>Cecil D. Quillen III</b>		<b>Nigel D. J. Wilson</b>
<b>Linklaters LLP</b>		<b>Davis Polk &amp; Wardwell LLP</b>
<b>One Silk Street</b>		<b>99 Gresham Street</b>
<b>London EC2Y 8HQ</b>		<b>London EC2V 7NG</b>
<b>England</b>		<b>England</b>
<b>Tel. No.: 011-44-20-7456-2000</b>		<b>Tel. No.: 011-44-20-7418-1300</b>

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of the securities to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

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If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.C. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. x

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.C. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

<b>Title of Each Class of</b>	<b>Amount to be Registered/Proposed Maximum</b>	<b>Amount of</b>
<b>Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Aggregate Offering Price per</b>	<b>Registration Fee</b>
	<b>Unit/Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price</b>	
Debt Securities	(1)	\$ (1)
Guarantees of Debt Securities	(2)	\$ (2)

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of Debt Securities is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the Registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 457(n), no separate fee for the Guarantees is payable.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This Post-Effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form F-3 (File No. 333-151839) is being filed for the purpose of (i) removing the Alcan financial information previously incorporated by reference in this prospectus; (ii) revising the base prospectus that forms part of the Registration Statement; and (iii) filing certain exhibits to the Registration Statement. The existing base prospectus, dated April 14, 2009, that forms part of the Registration Statement is being replaced in its entirety by the base prospectus filed with this Post-Effective Amendment No. 2. This Post-Effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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PROSPECTUS

**RIO TINTO FINANCE (USA) LIMITED**

**DEBT SECURITIES**

**FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED BY**

**RIO TINTO PLC**

**and**

**RIO TINTO LIMITED**

We may offer and sell guaranteed debt securities from time to time. Each time we sell any of the guaranteed debt securities described in this prospectus, we will provide one or more supplements to this prospectus that will contain specific information about those guaranteed debt securities and their offering. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement(s) together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" carefully before you invest.

We may sell these guaranteed debt securities to, or through, underwriters and also to other purchasers or through agents. The names of any underwriters or agents will be stated in an accompanying prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to sell any guaranteed debt securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our principal executive offices and the principal executive offices of Rio Tinto Limited are located at Level 33, 120 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia. Our and Rio Tinto Limited's telephone number is +61 3-9283-3333. The principal executive offices of Rio Tinto plc are located at 2 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LG, United Kingdom and its telephone number is +44 20-7781-2000.

*You should carefully consider the risk factors included, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement(s) before you invest in any of our securities.*

*Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.*

Prospectus dated May 17, 2011

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form F-3 that has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may offer and sell the guaranteed debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the guaranteed debt securities we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer guaranteed debt securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the offering and the terms of those guaranteed debt securities and the extent to which such terms differ from the general terms described in Description of Guaranteed Debt Securities. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement(s), together with the additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, prior to purchasing any of the guaranteed debt securities offered by this prospectus.

When acquiring any guaranteed debt securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we authorize to be delivered to you. Neither we, nor any underwriters or agents, have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not offering the guaranteed debt securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation.

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is truthful or complete at any date other than the date mentioned on the cover page of those documents.

In this prospectus, the terms we, our and us refer to Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited. We refer to Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited taken together as Rio Tinto. We refer to Rio Tinto plc, Rio Tinto Limited and their subsidiaries taken together as the Rio Tinto Group, or the Group. Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited offers debt securities using this prospectus. Both Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited act as the guarantors for offerings by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited using this prospectus.

**ENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL LIABILITIES**

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia. Rio Tinto plc is a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. Rio Tinto Limited is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia. Substantially all of our and Rio Tinto's directors and officers, and some of the experts named in this document, reside outside the United States, principally in the United Kingdom and Australia. A substantial portion of our and Rio Tinto's assets, and the assets of such persons, are located outside the United States. Therefore, you may not be able to effect service of process within the United States upon us, Rio Tinto or these persons so that you may enforce judgments of United States courts against us, Rio Tinto or these persons based on the civil liability provisions of the United States federal or state securities laws. Our English and Australian legal advisers have advised us and Rio Tinto that there are doubts as to the enforceability in England and Wales and Australia, in original actions or in actions for enforcement of judgments of United States courts, of civil liabilities based on the United States federal or state securities laws.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) applicable to foreign private issuers and, in accordance with these requirements, file annual and special reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document that Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may also obtain documents Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited file with the SEC on the SEC website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The address of the SEC's internet site is provided solely for the information of prospective investors and is not intended to be an active link. Please visit this website or call the SEC at 1-800-732-0330 for further information about its public reference room.

American depositary shares representing ordinary shares of Rio Tinto plc are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and the ordinary shares are admitted to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and to trading on the London Stock Exchange plc's main market for listed securities. The ordinary shares of Rio Tinto Limited are listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. You can consult reports and other information about Rio Tinto plc that it has filed pursuant to the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and the UK Listing Authority, and about Rio Tinto Limited that it has filed pursuant to the rules of the Australian Stock Exchange, at those exchanges or authorities.

The SEC allows us and Rio Tinto to incorporate by reference the information that we and Rio Tinto file with them, which means that:

incorporated documents are considered part of this prospectus;

we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents; and

information that we and Rio Tinto file with the SEC in the future and incorporate by reference herein will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus and information previously incorporated by reference herein.

The information that we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus.

Each document incorporated by reference is current only as of the date of such document, and the incorporation by reference of such documents shall not create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Rio Tinto Group since the date thereof or that the information contained therein is current as of any time subsequent to its date. Any statement contained in such incorporated documents shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purpose of this prospectus to the extent that a subsequent statement contained in another document we incorporate by reference at a later date modifies or supersedes that statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents below filed with the SEC by Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited pursuant to the Exchange Act. We also incorporate by reference any future filings that Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until we sell all of the securities. Our reports on Form 6-K furnished to the SEC after the date of this prospectus (or portions thereof) are incorporated by reference in this prospectus only to the extent that the forms expressly state that we incorporate them (or such portions) by reference in this prospectus.

The documents incorporated by reference herein in the future and set forth below contain important information about us and our financial condition:

- (i) Annual Report on Form 20-F of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010 filed with the SEC on March 15, 2011; and
- (ii) any future report on Form 20-F that either of Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited files with the SEC under the Exchange Act until we sell the guaranteed debt securities that may be offered through this prospectus.





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You can obtain copies of any of the documents incorporated by reference through Rio Tinto or the SEC. Documents incorporated by reference are available without charge, excluding all exhibits unless an exhibit has been specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You may obtain Rio Tinto documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, at no cost, by requesting them in writing or by telephone at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Rio Tinto Limited	Rio Tinto plc
Level 33	2 Eastbourne Terrace
120 Collins Street	London W2 6LG
Melbourne, Victoria 3000	United Kingdom
Australia	011-44-20-7781-2000
011-61-3-9283-3333	

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus contains and incorporates by reference certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and business of the Rio Tinto Group. These statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act ) and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. The words intend , aim , project , anticipate , estimate , p believe , expect , may , should , will , or similar expressions, commonly identify such forward-looking statements.

Examples of forward-looking statements contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus include those regarding estimated ore reserves, anticipated production or construction dates, costs, outputs and productive lives of assets or similar factors. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors set forth in this document that are beyond the Group s control. For example, future ore reserves will be based in part on market prices that may vary significantly from current levels. These may materially affect the timing and feasibility of particular developments. Other factors include the ability to produce and transport products profitably, demand for our products, the effect of foreign currency exchange rates on market prices and operating costs, and activities by governmental authorities, such as changes in taxation or regulation, and political uncertainty.

In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, actual results could be materially different from projected future results expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements which speak only as at the date of this prospectus. Except as required by applicable regulations or by law, the Group does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information or future events. The Group cannot guarantee that its forward-looking statements will not differ materially from actual results.

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**RIO TINTO PLC AND RIO TINTO LIMITED**

**The Rio Tinto Group**

The Rio Tinto Group combines Rio Tinto plc, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange and headquartered in London, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and has executive offices in Melbourne.

Businesses include open pit and underground mines, mills, refineries and smelters as well as a number of research and service facilities. The Group consists of wholly and partly owned subsidiaries, jointly controlled assets, jointly controlled entities and associated companies.

On December 31, 2010, Rio Tinto plc had a market capitalization of £68 billion (U.S.\$107 billion) and Rio Tinto Limited had a market capitalization of A\$37 billion (U.S.\$38 billion). The Group's combined market capitalization in publicly held shares on December 31, 2010, was U.S.\$145 billion.

Rio Tinto's operational structure is designed to facilitate a clear focus on the Group's objective. This structure is based on the following primary product and business support groups:

*Aluminium:* Alcan is a global leader in the aluminium industry. It mines high quality bauxite, refines alumina for both primary aluminium production and specialty alumina markets, and produces primary aluminium at some of the lowest cost, most technologically advanced smelters in the industry, using self-generated hydroelectricity at many facilities.

*Copper:* The Copper group is one of the world's largest producers of copper, with valuable by-products of gold and molybdenum. A diverse mix of operations and projects are located in North and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia. In addition to interests in some of the world's largest copper mines, it is taking the lead in the development of three of the world's largest new copper projects, including management of the Oyu Tolgoi project.

*Diamonds & Minerals:* The group comprises Rio Tinto Diamonds (RTD), Rio Tinto Minerals (RTM) and Rio Tinto Iron & Titanium (RTIT). RTD is a global supplier of rough diamonds. RTM is a global leader in borates and talc supply with mines, processing plants, commercial and research facilities, and RTIT is a market leader in titanium dioxide feedstock.

*Energy:* Rio Tinto Energy is a leading supplier of thermal and coking coal to the Asian seaborne market as well as being one of the world's largest uranium producers, serving electric utilities worldwide. The Rio Tinto Energy portfolio includes Rio Tinto Coal Australia, a coal mine at Colowyo in Colorado, a 68.4% interest in Energy Resources of Australia which produces uranium oxide from its Ranger operations, and a 68.6% interest in Rössing Uranium, a Namibian uranium oxide producer.

*Iron Ore:* Rio Tinto Iron Ore is the second largest producer supplying the world's seaborne iron ore trade, and produces pellets and concentrates. It has a global supply capacity to serve both the Pacific and Atlantic markets, operating an integrated platform of mines, rail and port infrastructure including development projects and is well positioned to benefit from the continuing demand surge in China and other Asian markets. The Rio Tinto Iron Ore product group includes the Dampier Salt operations located near its iron ore mines in Australia as well as Rio Tinto Marine.

*Exploration:* The role of the Exploration group is to add value to Rio Tinto by discovering or acquiring resources that can increase future cash flows. It is organised into regional multi-commodity teams, with head offices in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia, supported by commodity and commercial specialists. Programs are prioritized on a global basis, with investment decisions driven not by location or choice of commodity but rather by the quality of each opportunity.



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*Technology & Innovation:* Technology & Innovation consists of a central team of technology professionals and a number of technology centers that develop leading practice and promote improvements in mining, processing, asset management, strategic production planning, energy use and project development, execution and evaluation.

**The DLC Structure**

Each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited is the ultimate holding company of the companies within its respective group and its respective assets are substantially comprised of shares in such companies. Neither Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited conducts any other business and both are accordingly dependent on the other members of the Rio Tinto Group and revenues received from them.

In December 1995, the shareholders of each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited approved the terms of a dual listed companies merger (the DLC merger ) that was designed to place the shareholders of each of the companies in substantially the same position as if they held shares in a single enterprise. Following the approval of the DLC merger, each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited entered into a DLC Merger Sharing Agreement (the Sharing Agreement ). The Sharing Agreement ensured that the boards of directors of each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited were identical and that their businesses are managed as a single enterprise. The Sharing Agreement provided for the ratio of dividend, voting and capital distribution rights attached to each Rio Tinto plc ordinary share and to each Rio Tinto Limited share to be fixed in an equalization ratio which has remained unchanged at 1:1. In principle, the Sharing Agreement provides for the public shareholders of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited to vote as a joint electorate on all matters which affect them in similar ways. However, the Sharing Agreement also provides for the protection of the public shareholders of each of the companies by treating the shares of each as if they were separate classes of shares issued by a single company.

Also in December 1995, each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited entered into a Deed Poll Guarantee in favor of the creditors of the other. Pursuant to the Deed Poll Guarantees, each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited guaranteed the contractual obligations of the other (and the obligations of other persons which are guaranteed by the other company), subject to certain limited exceptions. As a consequence of the Deed Poll Guarantees, holders of notes issued by the Company may make demand upon either Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited.

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**RIO TINTO FINANCE (USA) LIMITED**

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited (ABN 84 062 129 551), a corporation incorporated with limited liability in Australia, on October 19, 1993, under the Corporations Act 2001 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto Limited and is one of the finance companies through which the Rio Tinto Group conducts its treasury operations. We have access to surplus corporate funds which we invest in the money markets and raise finance from banks and third parties in the short, medium and long-term markets for on-lending to Rio Tinto Group companies. We also undertake foreign exchange and interest rate transactions as part of the Rio Tinto Group's long-term management of foreign currency and interest rate exposures. Our registered and principal executive office is located at 120 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia.

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**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

Set forth in the table below are the ratios of earnings to fixed charges of Rio Tinto based on information derived from our consolidated financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ( IFRS ).

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	23.02	7.05	5.91	14.40	39.88

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges of Rio Tinto is computed by dividing the amount of its pre-tax earnings by the amount of its fixed charges. For the purposes of calculating the ratio, earnings is defined as pre-tax income from continuing operations before adjustments for minority interests, less (i) minority interests in pre-tax income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges; and (ii) share of profits after tax of equity accounted units, plus (i) fixed charges; (ii) distributed income of equity investees; and (iii) amortization of capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest costs, both expensed and capitalized, and a reasonable approximation of the interest component of rental expense representative of the interest factor.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The net proceeds from the sale of the guaranteed debt securities offered will be added to the general funds of Rio Tinto, unless we state otherwise in a prospectus supplement.



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**DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEED DEBT SECURITIES**

*This prospectus relates to guaranteed debt securities issued by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited. As required by federal law of the United States for all bonds and notes of companies that are publicly offered, the debt securities are governed by a document called an indenture. The indenture relating to debt securities issued by Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited is a contract among Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited, Rio Tinto plc, Rio Tinto Limited and The Bank of New York Mellon (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank).*

**General**

The Bank of New York Mellon (as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, formerly The Chase Manhattan Bank) acts as the trustee under the indenture. The trustee has two principal functions:

First, it can enforce the rights of holders of the debt securities against us or Rio Tinto if we or Rio Tinto default on debt securities issued under the indenture. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustee acts on behalf of holders of the debt securities, described under [Default and Related Matters](#) [Events of Default](#) [Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs](#) below; and

Second, the trustee performs administrative duties for us, such as sending interest payments to holders, transferring debt securities to new buyers and sending notices to holders.

Both Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited act as the guarantors of the debt securities issued under the indenture. The guarantees are described under [Guarantees](#) below.

The indenture and its associated documents contain the full legal text of the matters described in this section. The indenture, the debt securities and the guarantees are governed by New York law. A copy of the form of indenture is filed with the SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain a copy.

Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited may issue as many distinct series of debt securities under the indenture as it wishes. This section summarizes all material terms of the debt securities and the guarantees that are common to all series, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series.

Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities or the guarantees. This summary is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture, including some of the terms used in the indenture. We describe the meaning for only the more important terms. We also include references in parentheses to some sections of the indenture. Whenever we refer to particular sections or defined terms of the indenture in this prospectus or in the prospectus supplement, those sections or defined terms are incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in the prospectus supplement. This summary also is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the particular terms of the series of debt securities described in the prospectus supplement.

In addition, the specific financial, legal and other terms particular to a series of debt securities are described in the prospectus supplement and the pricing agreement relating to the series. Those terms may vary from the terms described here. Accordingly, this summary also is subject to and qualified by reference to the description of the terms of the series of debt securities described in the prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the following terms of the series:

the title of the series of debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the series of debt securities;

any stock exchange on which we will list the series of debt securities;



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the date or dates on which we will pay the principal of the series of debt securities;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, per annum at which the series of debt securities will bear interest, if any, and the date or dates from which that interest, if any, will accrue;

the dates on which interest, if any, on the series of debt securities will be payable and the regular record dates for the interest payment dates;

any mandatory or optional sinking funds or analogous provisions or provisions for redemption at the option of the holder;

the date, if any, after which and the price or prices at which the series of debt securities may, in accordance with any optional or mandatory redemption provisions that are not described in this prospectus, be redeemed and the other detailed terms and provisions of those optional or mandatory redemption provisions, if any;

the denominations in which the series of debt securities will be issuable;

the currency of payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities if other than the currency of the United States of America and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in the currency of the United States of America;

any index used to determine the amount of payment of principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities;

the applicability of the provisions described later under Restrictive Covenants Defeasance and Discharge ;

if the series of debt securities will be issuable in whole or part in the form of a global security as described under Legal Ownership Global Securities , and the depositary or its nominee with respect to the series of debt securities, and any special circumstances under which the global security may be registered for transfer or exchange in the name of a person other than the depositary or its nominee; and

any other special features of the series of debt securities.

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, which are debt securities that are offered and sold at a material discount to their stated principal amount (*Section 101 of the Indenture*). The prospectus supplement relating to original issue discount securities will describe United States federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to them. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any such debt securities.

**Guarantees**

Both Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited will fully and unconditionally guarantee the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities, including any additional amounts which may be payable in respect of the debt securities, as described under Special Situations Payment of Additional Amounts . Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited guarantee the payment of such amounts when such amounts become due and payable, whether at the stated maturity of the debt securities, by declaration or acceleration, call for redemption or otherwise. Each of Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited is individually obligated to pay such amounts.



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### **Legal Ownership**

#### ***Street Name and Other Indirect Holders***

Investors who hold debt securities in accounts at banks or brokers will generally not be recognized by us as legal holders of debt securities. This is called holding in street name. Instead, we would recognize only the bank or broker, or the financial institution the bank or broker uses to hold its debt securities. These intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions pass along principal, interest and other payments on the debt securities, either because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Holders of debt securities who hold in street name should check with their institutions to find out:

how it handles payments in respect of the debt securities and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle voting if it were ever required;

whether and how holders can instruct it to send their debt securities, registered in their own names so they can be direct holders as described below; and

how it would pursue rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests.

#### ***Direct Holders***

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by us or the trustee, run only to persons who are registered as holders of debt securities. As noted above, we do not have obligations to holders who hold in street name or other indirect means, either because such holders choose to hold debt securities in that manner or because the debt securities are issued in the form of global securities as described below. For example, once we make payment to the registered holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment even if that holder is legally required to pass the payment along to the street name customer but does not do so.

#### ***Global Securities***

*What is a Global Security?* A global security is a special type of indirectly held security, as described above under *Street Name and Other Indirect Holders*. If we choose to issue debt securities in the form of global securities, the ultimate beneficial owners can only be indirect holders.

We require that the global security be registered in the name of a financial institution we select. In addition, we require that the debt securities included in the global security not be transferred to the name of any other direct holder unless the special circumstances described below occur. The financial institution that acts as the sole direct holder of the global security is called the depository. Any person wishing to own a security must do so indirectly by virtue of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository. The prospectus supplement indicates whether a particular series of debt securities will be issued only in the form of global securities.

*Special Investor Considerations for Global Securities.* As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize this type of investor as a holder of debt securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.

Investors in debt securities that are issued only in the form of global debt securities should be aware that:

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They cannot get debt securities registered in their own names.

They cannot receive physical certificates for their interests in the debt securities.

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They will be street name holders and must look to their own banks or brokers for payments on the debt securities and protection of their legal rights relating to the debt securities, as explained earlier under [Legal Ownership](#) [Street Name and Other Indirect Holders](#) .

They may not be able to sell interests in the debt securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their debt securities in the form of physical certificates.

The depositary's policies will govern payments, transfers, exchange and other matters relating to holders' interests in the global security. We and the trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in the global security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depositary in any way.

The depositary will require that interests in a global security be purchased or sold within its system using same-day funds.

*Special Situations When Global Security Will Be Terminated.* In a few special situations described later, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing debt securities. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold debt securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own bank or brokers to find out how to have their interests in debt securities transferred to their own name so that they will be direct holders. The rights of street name investors and direct holders in the debt securities have been previously described in the subsections entitled [Legal Ownership](#) [Street Name and Other Indirect Holders](#) and [Direct Holders](#) .

The special situations for termination of a global security are:

When the depositary notifies us or Rio Tinto that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary.

When an event of default on the debt securities has occurred and has not been cured. Defaults are discussed below under [Default and Related Matters](#) [Events of Default](#) .

The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of debt securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depositary (and not we or the trustee) is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders. (*Sections 305 and 206*)

## **Overview of Remainder of this Description**

The remainder of this description summarizes:

*Additional mechanics* relevant to the debt securities under normal circumstances, such as how to transfer ownership and where we make payments.

Holders' rights under several *special situations*, such as if we merge with another company, if we want to change a term of the debt securities or if we want to redeem the debt securities for tax reasons.

Holders' rights to receive *payment of additional amounts* due to changes in the withholding requirements of various jurisdictions.

*Covenants* contained in the indenture that restrict our and Rio Tinto's ability to incur liens. A particular series of debt securities may have additional covenants.

Holders' rights if we or Rio Tinto **default** in respect of our or Rio Tinto's obligations under the debt securities or experience other financial difficulties.

Our relationship with the **trustee**.



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### **Additional Mechanics**

#### ***Exchange and Transfer***

The debt securities will be issued:

only in fully registered form;

without interest coupons; and

unless indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations that are even multiples of U.S.\$1,000. Holders may have their debt securities broken into more debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. (*Section 305*) This is called an exchange.

Holders may exchange or transfer their debt securities at the office of the trustee. The trustee acts as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders and transferring the securities. We may change this appointment to another entity or perform the service ourselves. The entity performing the role of maintaining the list of registered holders is called the security registrar. It will also register transfers of the debt securities. (*Section 305*)

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange debt securities, but may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The transfer or exchange of a registered debt security will only be made if the security registrar is satisfied with a holder's proof of ownership.

If we have designated additional transfer agents, they are named in the prospectus supplement. We may cancel the designation of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts. (*Section 1002*)

If the debt securities are redeemable and we redeem less than all of the debt securities of a particular series, we may block the transfer or exchange of debt securities during a specified period of time in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. The period begins 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ends on the day of that mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of debt securities selected for redemption. However, we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any security being partially redeemed. (*Section 305*)

#### ***Payment and Paying Agents***

We will pay interest to holders who are direct holders listed in the trustee's records at the close of business on a particular day in advance of each due date for interest, even if such holders no longer own the security on the interest due date. That particular day, usually about two weeks in advance of the interest due date, is called the regular record date and is stated in the prospectus supplement. (*Section 307*)

We will pay interest, principal and any other money due on your debt securities at the corporate trust office of the trustee in New York City. That office is currently located at 101 Barclay Street, New York, NY 10286. Holders must make arrangements to have payments picked up at or wired from that office. We may also choose to pay interest by mailing checks.

Interest on global securities will be paid to the holder thereof by wire transfer of same-day funds.

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Holders buying and selling debt securities must work out between them how to compensate for the fact that we will pay all the interest for an interest period to, in the case of registered debt securities, the one who is the registered holder on the regular record date. The most common manner is to adjust the sales price of the debt securities to prorate interest fairly between buyer and seller. This prorated interest amount is called accrued interest.

*Street name and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments.*

We or Rio Tinto may also arrange for additional payment offices, and may cancel or change these offices, including our or Rio Tinto's use of the trustee's corporate trust office. These offices are called paying agents. We may also choose to act as our own paying agent. We must notify holders of changes in the paying agents for any particular series of debt securities. (Section 1002)

### **Notices**

We and the trustee will send notices only to direct holders, using their addresses as listed in the trustee's records. (Sections 101 and 106)

Regardless of who acts as paying agent, all money that we pay to a paying agent that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the amount is due to direct holders will be repaid to us. After that two-year period, holders may look only to us for payment and not to the trustee, any other paying agent or anyone else. (Section 1003)

### **Special Situations**

#### ***Mergers and Similar Events***

We, Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are generally permitted to consolidate or merge with another entity. We, Rio Tinto plc and Rio Tinto Limited are also permitted to sell or lease substantially all of our assets to another entity or to buy or lease substantially all of the assets of another entity. However, Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited may only take these actions if the successor entity is incorporated or organized under the laws of Australia, any state thereof, or the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia. In addition, neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited may take any of these actions unless all the following conditions are met:

Where Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited merges out of existence or sells or leases substantially all its assets, the successor entity must be duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction.

If such successor entity is organized under the laws of a jurisdiction other than Australia, the United Kingdom, or the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia, it must indemnify holders against any governmental charge or other cost resulting from the transaction.

Neither we, Rio Tinto plc nor Rio Tinto Limited may be in default on the debt securities or guarantees immediately prior to such action and such action must not cause a default. For purposes of this no-default test, a default would include an event of default that has occurred and not been cured, as described under **Default and Related Matters** **Events of Default** **What is An Event of Default?** A default for this purpose would also include any event that would be an event of default if the requirements for notice of default or existence of defaults for a specified period of time were disregarded.

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If we, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited merges out of existence or sells or leases substantially all of our or their assets, the successor entity must execute a supplement to the indenture, known as a supplemental indenture. In the supplemental indenture, the entity must promise to be bound by every obligation in the indenture applicable to Rio Tinto Finance (USA) Limited, Rio Tinto plc or Rio Tinto Limited, as the case may be.