Rio Tinto Aluminium Limited

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Australia

TF 19 June 2018

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002
Email submission: energyreview@dnrme.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Review of Queensland Energy Legislation

Rio Tinto welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DRNME) on the Review of Queensland Energy Legislation Issues Paper, May 2018 (the Issues Paper). Nothing in this submission is confidential.

The Aluminium business unit of Rio Tinto owns the Yarwun Alumina Refinery and has interests in the Boyne Island Aluminium Smelter and Queensland Alumina Refinery, all within the Gladstone region as well as extensive bauxite mining operations near Weipa. The full operating load of these facilities is in excess of 10,000 GWh per year. These facilities also use close to 40 PJ of gas per year. Rio Tinto also has interests in Queensland electricity generation assets with >1800 MW of capacity. Accordingly Rio Tinto is vitally interested in any changes to the Electricity Act 1994, Gas Supply Act 2003 and the Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006 (together Queensland Energy Legislation).

As noted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, “Energy is the most significant input cost for Queensland manufacturing businesses”. Queensland is rich in both thermal and renewable energy resources. With the rapid advancement of technology, to the extent that there are policy changes made in respect of Queensland Energy Legislation, they should be focussed on ensuring Queensland’s energy endowment is once again a source of competitive advantage for Queensland manufacturers.

The Issues Paper, while giving a high level policy context, appears to be focussed primarily on the possibility of technical changes to Queensland Energy Legislation. Rio Tinto has no particular areas where it is currently seeking major change to the technical operation of Queensland Energy Legislation. To the extent that the Government seeks to make changes to Queensland Energy Legislation, Rio Tinto requests the opportunity to be part of the consultation process regarding those changes.

If you have any questions regarding this submission please contact Daniel Woodfield.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Cox
Managing Director, Rio Tinto Aluminium – Pacific Operations