

RIO TINTO

News release...

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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 30 June 2004

'000 tonnes (100% basis) ^(a)	2Q 2003	3Q 2003	4Q 2003	1Q 2004	2Q 2004	Full year 2003
Hunter Valley Operations						
Thermal coal production	2,136	2,028	2,620	2,255	2,738	9,146
Coking coal production	805	875	381	371	729	2,862
Mount Thorley Operations						
Thermal coal production	361	416	433	535	725	1,720
	330	369	377	137	226	1,432
Coking coal production						
Bengalla Mine						
Thermal coal production	1,776	1,122	2,008	1,075	1,525	6,203
Warkworth Mine						
Thermal coal production	1,152	1,212	1,371	1,256	1,422	5,369
Coking coal production	168	127	93	198	419	500
Total coal production	6,728	6,147	7,284	5,826	7,784	27,232
Total sales ('000 tonnes) ^(a)	6,633	6,802	7,278	6,424	7,486	27,887

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

Second quarter production from all mines improved over the first quarter, which was weather affected. All operations benefited from higher equipment availability and utilisation. In addition Mount Thorley/Warkworth coal mining operations moved to a seven-day roster.

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Following the implementation of a port-rationing agreement, the queue of ships at the port of Newcastle reduced progressively during the second quarter. The queue, which had reached over 50 vessels and averaged 40 vessels in the first quarter, had fallen to around 12 by the end of June. As a consequence, demurrage charges fell as the quarter progressed.

Coal & Allied was brought under unified management with Rio Tinto Coal Australia with effect from 1 February 2004. In addition, Mount Thorley and Warkworth mines have been managed as one operation since late January 2004. These organisational changes are aimed at improving operational efficiency and reducing costs.

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