

RIO TINTO

News release...

Date: 19 January 2005
Ref: PR400g

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 and Allied production report for the quarter ended 31 December 2004

'000 tonnes (100% basis) ^(a)	4Q 2003	1Q 2004	2Q 2004	3Q 2004	4Q 2004	12 months 2003	12 months 2004
<u>Hunter Valley Operations</u>							
Thermal coal production	2,620	2,255	2,738	2,838	3,340	9,146	11,172
Semi-soft coking coal production	381	371	729	689	308	2,862	2,097
<u>Mount Thorley Operations</u>							
Thermal coal production	433	514	710	722	817	1,720	2,762
Semi-soft coking coal production	377	158	240	258	129	1,432	785
<u>Bengalla Mine</u>							
Thermal coal production	2,008	1,075	1,525	1,737	975	6,203	5,312
<u>Warkworth Mine</u>							
Thermal coal production	1,371	1,217	1,394	1,381	1,560	5,369	5,552
Semi-soft coking coal production	93	237	447	479	239	500	1,403
Total coal production	7,284	5,826	7,784	8,105	7,368	27,232	29,083
Total sales ('000 tonnes)^(a)	7,278	6,424	7,486	7,931	6,835	27,887	28,677

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

Production at Bengalla was lower than in previous quarters as mining progressed through an area with a higher strip ratio. Total production from all other mines exceeded the previous quarter and the corresponding period of 2003.

Production at Hunter Valley increased slightly during the quarter, assisted by the use of contractors, to take advantage of market conditions.

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Sales through the port of Newcastle were lower than the previous quarter due to vessel presentation and port congestion.

There was no exploration activity during the quarter.

Coal & Allied continued work on the development of the Mount Pleasant deposit (Coal & Allied 100 per cent).

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