Amrun project
Fact sheet

An introduction
Rio Tinto has mined bauxite at Weipa on Western Cape York for more than 50 years. Almost ten years ago, we began investigating the possibility of building a new mine on part of our existing lease south of the Embley River, between Weipa and Aurukun.

The South of Embley project has secured all necessary permits with Queensland Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) approval in 2012, Commonwealth EIS approval in 2013 and the Queensland Environmental Authority in 2014. Tenure is secured under a State Agreement Act (Comalco Act).

At the request of Traditional Owners, the South of Embley project will be known as Amrun, the Wik-Waya name for the area.

Amrun project

Amrun sits on Wik-Waya traditional lands. Rio Tinto has agreements with 12 Traditional Owner groups in total, across three agreements, which underpin all Weipa operations and activities. We have worked closely with Wik-Waya people to develop a Communities, Heritage and Environment Management Plan (CHEMP) to guide construction and operation of the project.

The Amrun project includes the construction of a range of infrastructure required to support mining including a processing plant and port near Boyd Bay, a dam, tailings storage facility, roads and a ferry terminal on the Hey River to transport workers from Weipa to the mine.

Construction of Amrun will extend the Weipa mine life by approximately 40 years, depending on production rates.

Construction snapshot
Cost: US$1.9 billion
Location: ~40 kilometres south of Weipa and 40 kilometres north of Aurukun
Duration: Around three years
Workforce: 1,100 people (peak)
Direct financial contribution (AUD):
• $108 million (Western Cape York)
• $270 million (Far North Queensland region)
• $1.5 billion (Queensland) and
• $2 billion (national)
First production: H1 2019

Operations snapshot
Production: 22.8mtpa1 (~10mtpa replaces East Weipa tonnes)
Ownership: 100 per cent Rio Tinto
Potential expansion: Options to 50mtpa
Workforce: Amrun will support 1,400 roles across Weipa operations
Economic contribution (AUD): $1.3 billion annually to Queensland economy
Customers: Rio Tinto refineries in Gladstone and export, mostly to China
Shipping: Increased production will be transported via ships travelling north to export markets in China

Weipa is part of Rio Tinto’s global Bauxite & Alumina business (headquartered in Brisbane) within the Aluminium product group. Our Queensland operations also include two alumina refineries, Yarwun (100 per cent owned) and Queensland Alumina Limited (80 per cent owned), both in Gladstone. Our global B&A operations are supported by a research and development centre at Pullenvale, west of Brisbane.

1 As disclosed in the media release dated 27 November 2015 (“Rio Tinto approves US$1.9 billion Amrun (South of Embley) bauxite project”). All material assumptions underpinning this production target continue to apply and have not materially changed since the date of that release.