Company Number: 883375

# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001



**DIRECTORS** O L Groeneveld

R C Shaw (Managing Director)

R Adams

**SECRETARY** B G Gale

6 St James's Square London SW1Y 4LD REGISTERED OFFICE

**AUDITORS** PricewaterhouseCoopers
1 Embankment Place

London WC2N 6RH

#### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting of Rio Tinto Aluminium Holdings Limited will be held at 6 St James's Square, London on 16 May 2002 for the following purposes:

- To receive and, if approved, adopt the Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2001.
- 2 To re-appoint the auditors.
- 3 To transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

### NOTE

A member of the Company who is entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him. A proxy need not also be a member of the Company.

By order of the board

Secretary

6 St James's Square London SW1Y 4LD

16 May 2002

# CONSENT TO SHORT NOTICE

We, the undersigned, being registered as the holders of the entire issued capital of the above company, hereby consent to the Annual General Meeting being held at the date and time specified in the above notice, notwithstanding that less than twenty-one days' notice has been given of the meeting.

For and on behalf of Rio Tinto Metals Limited

Secretary

For and on behalf of Rio Tinto Mominees Limited

Director

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The directors submit their annual report and the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2001.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Company is acting as a holding company for the Rio Tinto Group's primary aluminium and alumina interests in the UK.

Details of the principal subsidiary undertakings at 31 December 2001 are given on page 12.

# **REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS**

Dividend income and distributions were higher than in 2000 in line with dividend policy in the Rio Tinto Group. The production subsidiary's volumes were down on 2000 and certain production costs were higher.

It is expected that volumes will improve in 2002, but profits are also heavily dependent on the Sterling equivalent of aluminium prices quoted on the London Metal Exchange.

### **RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS**

The results of the Company for the year are set out on page 8.

Profit for the financial year after taxation was £13,887,000 (2000 - £9,394,000).

Interim dividends of £13,640,000 were paid during the year (2000 - £9,110,000). The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend (2000 - £nil).

The retained profit for the year was £247,000 (2000 - £284,000).

# **DIRECTORS**

The names of the directors in office at the date of this report are shown on page 2. Mr J C A Leslie resigned as director and Mr O L Groeneveld was appointed as director on 9 April 2001.

#### DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

The directors who held office on 31 December 2001 and whose interests are not reported in the accounts of a parent company had the following interests in the ordinary shares of Rio Tinto plc, the ultimate parent company, as recorded in the register required to be kept by section 325 of the Companies Act 1985:-

# Ordinary shares of 10p each of Rio Tinto plc

	1 January 2001	31 December 2001
R C Shaw	18,207	19,526

# Options on ordinary shares of 10p each of Rio Tinto plc(1)

	1 January 2001	<u>Granted</u>	<b>Exercised</b>	31 December 2001
R C Shaw	38,033	6,084	1,734	42,383

Long term incentive plans<sup>(2)</sup>

Ordinary shares of 10p each
of Rio Tinto plc

1 January 2001 31 December 2001

R C Shaw

4,542

3,662

- (1) Options cancelled during the year are not shown above and as such the options figure for the year end will not necessarily be equal to the sum of the opening figure and the options granted, less the options exercised.
- (2) This represents the maximum number of shares in Rio Tinto plc that may be awarded to the directors at a future date as a result of their participation in the FTSE Plan and the Mining Companies Comparative Plan. For further information regarding Rio Tinto's long-term incentive plans, including the FTSE Plan and the Mining Companies Comparative Plan, please see the Rio Tinto Annual Report and financial statements.

The directors are also deemed to have an interest in a trust fund containing 197,903 Rio Tinto ordinary shares at 31 December 2001 (31 December 2000 – 329,609 ordinary shares) as potential beneficiaries, together with other Rio Tinto Group employees.

No director had a material interest in any contract or arrangement during the year to which the Company or any subsidiary is or was a party.

#### POLICY REGARDING PAYMENT OF TRADE CREDITORS

It is the Company's policy to abide by terms of payment agreed with suppliers. In many cases, the terms of payment are as stated in the supplier's own literature. In other cases, the terms of payment are determined by specific written or oral agreement. The Company does not follow any published code or standard on payment practice. The Company had no trade creditors at 31 December 2001.

# STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are required by UK company law to prepare accounts for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial period and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing the accounts, which have been prepared on a going concern basis, appropriate accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made. Applicable accounting standards have been followed. The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, for safeguarding the assets of the Company, and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice convening the thirty-fifth annual general meeting of members is attached.

# **AUDITORS**

PricewaterhouseCoopers have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution to reappoint them will be proposed at the next annual general meeting.

By order of the board

Secretary

16 May 2002

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIO TINTO ALUMINIUM HOLDINGS LIMITED

We have audited the accounts on pages 8 to 14, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 10.

#### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and accounts in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards are set out in the statement of directors' responsibilities on page 5.

Our responsibility is to audit the accounts in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the accounts give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the accounts, if the Company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions is not disclosed.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the accounts.

### BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

#### **OPINION**

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs at 31 December 2001 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Pricevaterhouseloopers

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

London

16 May 2002

# **PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

		<u>2001</u> £ 000	<u>2000</u> £ 000
	NOTE		
Income from shares in subsidiary undertakings Interest receivable	5 6	13,640 353	9,110 405
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	4	13,993	9,515
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	7	(106)	(121)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION		13,887	9,394
Dividends	8	(13,640)	(9,110)
RETAINED PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	15	247	284

The Company has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the profit and loss account above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

All items dealt with in the above profit and loss account relate to continuing operations.

There is no difference between the profit on ordinary activities before taxation and the retained profit for the year stated above, and their historical cost equivalents.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these accounts.

# **BALANCE SHEET**

# **31 DECEMBER 2001**

		<u>2001</u> £ 000	2000 £ 000
	NOTE		
FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS	9	25,690	25,690
CURRENT ASSETS Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	10 11	7,000	6,769
		7,002	6,771
CREDITORS – AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	12	105	121
NET CURRENT ASSETS		6,897	6,650
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		32,587	32,340
CREDITORS – AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR Shareholder's loan	16	(16,000)	(16,000)
		16,587	16,340
CALLED UP SHARE CAPITAL	13	1,000	1,000
RESERVES Profit and loss account	15	15,587	15,340
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	14	16,587	16,340

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON 16 MAY 2002

Directors

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these accounts.

#### NOTES TO THE 2001 ACCOUNTS

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical convention and in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards. Financial Reporting Standard 18 "Accounting Policies" became mandatory for accounting periods ending on or after 22 June 2001. The directors have reviewed the Company's existing accounting policies and consider that they are consistent with the requirements of this new Standard.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Company will continue to operate.

### b) GROUP ACCOUNTS

Group accounts have not been prepared as the Company is itself a wholly - owned subsidiary of another company incorporated in England and Wales. In the opinion of the directors the aggregate value of the assets of the Company consisting of shares in, and amounts owing from, its subsidiaries is not less than the aggregate of the amount at which those assets are included in the balance sheet.

#### c) CASH FLOW

A cash flow statement is not included in these accounts because the Company is a wholly - owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto plc, which publishes consolidated accounts.

#### d) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company is exempt under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard No.8 from disclosing related party transactions with entities that are part of the Rio Tinto Group.

#### e) INVESTMENTS

Fixed asset investments are valued at cost less impairment provisions. Impairment provisions are determined by comparing the carrying value of the investment with its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the amount that can be obtained from selling the investment or the value of expected cash flows arising from holding the investment, discounted at a rate of return that the market would expect from an equally risky investment.

# f) DEFERRED TAXATION

Deferred taxation is provided by charge against profits to cover any material taxation liabilities which may crystallise in the foreseeable future as a result of a reversal of timing differences. No provision was required at 31 December 2001 (2000 - £nil), and there was no unprovided deferred tax (2000 - £nil).

# 2. EMPLOYEES

There were no people employed by the Company during the year (2000 - none).

### 3. **DIRECTORS**

No remuneration was payable to directors for their services to the Company during the year (2000 - £nil).

# (a) Emoluments of the directors for their services to subsidiary undertakings were as follows:

	<u>2001</u> £	2000 £
Aggregate emoluments*	99,973	95,568
Amounts receivable under long term incentive schemes (excluding shares and share options)*	-	20,655
The number of directors to whom retirement	No.	No.
benefits are accruing under defined benefit pension schemes in respect of qualifying services	1	1
The number of directors in respect of whose qualifying services shares were received or receivable under long term incentive schemes	-	1
The number of directors who exercised share options	1	-
(b) Highest paid director		
Aggregate emoluments and benefits (excluding gains on exercise of share options and value of shares) received under long-term incentive	£	£
schemes*	99,973	116,223
Defined benefit pension scheme:		
Accrued pension entitlement on retirement*	42,366	37,642

<sup>\*</sup>One of the Company's directors, being the highest paid director, provides qualifying services to subsidiary undertakings, and to a fellow subsidiary undertaking. The amounts attributable to subsidiary undertakings are therefore based on an apportionment of the remuneration receivable by that director.

Two of the Company's directors have acted in a non-executive capacity (2000 - two) and did not receive any emoluments or benefits in respect of their services to the Company and its subsidiaries (2000 - £nil). One non-executive director exercised share options during the year (2000 - none).

### 4. PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

No auditors' remuneration has been charged in arriving at profit on ordinary activities before taxation, as this has been borne by a subsidiary undertaking (2000 - £nil).

	<u>2001</u> £ 000	2000 £ 000	
5. INCOME FROM SHARES IN SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS			
Equity dividends from subsidiary undertakings	13,640	9,110	
6. INTEREST RECEIVABLE			
Bank interest	-	13	
Receivable from fellow subsidiary undertakings	353	392	
	353	405	
7. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Corporation tax at 30% ( $2000 - 30\%$ ) based on taxable profit for the year	106	121	
8. <u>DIVIDENDS</u>			
On 1,000,000 £1 ordinary shares: Interim paid 1,364p (2000 – 911p) per share	13,640	9,110	
Final proposed nil (2000 - nil) per share	-	-	
	13,640	9,110	
9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS			
Shares in subsidiary undertakings at cost	25,690	25,690	

The subsidiary undertakings at 31 December 2000 were all incorporated in England and Wales. The shareholdings, which consisted of Ordinary shares of £1 each fully paid, the percentages held, the nominal value of the issued shares held and the principal activities were:

Rio Tinto Aluminium Limited		
590,000 shares	100%	Aluminium Marketing
Rio Tinto Commercial Services Limited		
2 shares	100%	Alumina Purchasing
Anglesey Aluminium Limited		
13,387,500 shares	51%	Aluminium Smelting

10. <u>DEBTORS</u>	2001 £ 000	2000 £ 000		
Amounts receivable from fellow subsidiary undertakings	7,000	6,769		
Debtors are all receivable within one year.				
11. <u>CASH AT BANK</u>				
Under a group banking arrangement, balances of £2,153 (200 arrangement whereby balances could be used to settle the over Rio Tinto Group.				
12. CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ON	IE YEAR			
Corporation tax	105	121		
13. SHARE CAPITAL  Authorised, issued and fully paid				
1,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	1,000	1,000		
14. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS				
Profit for the financial year	13,887	9,394		
Dividends	(13,640)	(9,110)		
Net addition to shareholders' funds	247	284		
Opening shareholders' funds	16,340	16,056		
Closing shareholders' funds	16,587	16,340		

# 15. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	<u>2001</u> £ 000	2000 £ 000
Balance at 1 January	15,340	15,056
Retained profit for the year	247	284
Balance at 31 December	15,587	15,340

# 16. SHAREHOLDER'S LOAN

The loan is interest free and has no fixed repayment date. The shareholder has confirmed that it will not require repayment within the next 12 months.

# 17. CONTROLLING PARTIES

The immediate parent undertaking is Rio Tinto Metals Limited. The ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party is Rio Tinto plc, which is the parent undertaking of the smallest and largest group to consolidate these accounts. Copies of Rio Tinto plc consolidated accounts can be obtained from its registered office at 6 St James's Square, London.