

The Rio Tinto logo consists of the words "RioTinto" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

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To: The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
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Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry on the Peru Australia Free Trade Agreement (PAFTA).

Rio Tinto advocates for a free and fair international rules based order, given all of our operations are trade exposed. In that regard, we are fully supportive of the progress made with PAFTA. As a key member, we support the position put forward by the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) on 2 November 2018.

In particular, we strongly support the inclusion of an Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism. This mechanism helps us reduce the sovereign and political risks and protects us against expropriation. Having the right to access an international tribunal to resolve investment disputes protects high capital investment industries such as mining, from discrimination and instability.

In 1994, the company started the exploration of copper deposits in Peru, although it has also explored iron, zinc, borates and precious metal deposits. Rio Tinto has also contributed to the discovery of several ore deposits in Peru, in areas including Pampa de Pongo, Carhuacayan, Yanque-Accha, Pukaqaqa, El Aguila, Justa, Constancia, Corani and Ollachea. Removing impediments and trade barriers will encourage Australian mining investment in Peru with strong protections for private investors which are crucial for long-term capital intensive projects.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Farrell
Group Executive Health, Safety and Environment (HSE)
and Managing Director Australia