

RIO TINTO

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Submission No:10.....

External Affairs

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22 July 2005

Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Southcott

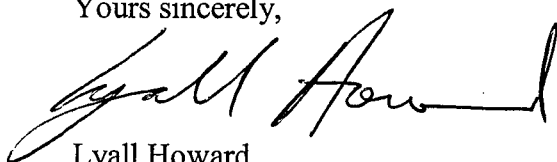
I am responding to your letter to Mr Brian Horwood, previous Managing Director of Rio Tinto Limited, dated 3 June 2005.

You asked in your letter for Rio Tinto's views on the consultation which occurred on the proposed *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Fields of Energy and Mineral Resources*. You also asked for Rio Tinto's views on the proposed treaty.

Rio Tinto is satisfied with the level of consultation concerning the proposed treaty. With respect to the treaty itself, Rio Tinto notes that this agreement with South Korea provides the framework for strengthening and developing the cooperation between the two countries in the fields of energy and mineral resources by upgrading the existing cooperation to treaty level status.

Rio Tinto's trade with the Republic of Korea has been very successful for many years and Rio Tinto has excellent relations with its Korean customers. Rio Tinto is in favour of the proposed treaty and welcomes stronger relations with the Republic of Korea.

Yours sincerely,



Lyall Howard
Manager - Government & Corporate Relations

PS - Please note that Mr Charlie Lenegan has replaced Mr Brian Horwood as Managing Director of Rio Tinto Australia.