

Vision

To be the leading global mining and metals company.

Strategy

To invest in and operate large, long-term, cost-competitive mines and businesses, driven not by choice of commodity but by the quality of each opportunity.

Strategic drivers

Five strategic drivers are helping us deliver our strategy and achieve our vision: financial and operational excellence, growth, licence to operate, globalising the business, technology and innovation.

Our strategic vision

Our vision is to be the leading global mining and metals company. We aim to maximise total shareholder return by sustainably finding, developing, mining, processing and marketing the Earth's natural resources.

We seek to achieve this leadership by working according to our values and to sustain long-term business success by building and leveraging effective relationships with relevant stakeholders, including governments and local communities.

The benefits of sector leadership to our stakeholders mean:

- Delivering superior returns to our shareholders through excellent operating, development and investment performance.
- Ensuring widespread and lasting economic benefits to host country communities.
- Positioning us to respond to our customers' needs.
- Providing our employees with leading training and career development opportunities and appropriate financial rewards.

Strong fundamentals position us well to achieve our vision: our portfolio includes some of the world's best assets, many of which set the standard for performance in their commodity sectors. Our strong balance sheet allows us financial flexibility and agility. Our people are highly capable and we are reaping the benefits of our increasingly diverse workforce that reflects our global reach. We are recognised as a responsible developer and operator of mining and refining operations around the world. This track record is built on the strong values defined in *The way we work* and the approach we have to the integration of sustainable development practices in everything we do.

Our strategy

Our investment in and operation of large, long-term, expandable, cost-competitive mines and businesses (also referred to as Tier 1 assets) define our path to sector leadership. Our choice of assets provides strong cash returns across the commodity cycle. Their expandability means we are well-placed to meet anticipated growth in demand as emerging economies urbanise and industrialise.

We pursue opportunities driven not by choice of commodity, but by the quality of each opportunity. We maximise the opportunities we identify by being in a position to choose between organic growth and value-focused acquisitions taking into account timing and market conditions. We target opportunities of sufficient magnitude and potential to meaningfully grow shareholder value. These investment decisions are subject to rigorous analysis of potential returns.

We are versatile in the way in which we develop and operate our assets. Operating across multiple jurisdictions we adhere to our commitment to safety, ethical conduct and environmental stewardship. We recognise the potential of partnerships with those who share similar values and whose specialist skills can add value to our projects.

We believe value-creating investment is the first and best use for the cash generated by our businesses. We maintain the strength of our balance sheet to take advantage of the opportunities capital and commodity market volatility present. Beyond these aims, we return cash to our shareholders.

Our strategic focus

Industry leaders aspire to excel not only in their business performance but in the way they conduct themselves. For Rio Tinto, this means a focus on distinctive performance in five fundamental areas: financial and operational performance; growth; licence to operate; globalising the business; and technology and innovation.

Our strategic focus requires a combination of the talents of people throughout our organisation – from individual mining and processing operations across the globe to shared functions that span our activities. Sharing common standards of best practice enables us to adapt to changing economic, market and political circumstances while achieving our performance goals. In every aspect of our strategy and our work we aim to create the processes and culture that puts safety in the forefront of our minds.

Financial and operational excellence

In acquiring and divesting our assets and in marketing our commodities we apply our deep industry knowledge and experience to identify and capitalise on opportunities. We acquire quality assets at prices that will reward operational improvement under our ownership. We also seek the acquisition of assets that capital markets temporarily undervalue. Through prudent divestments we capture value from assets that no longer fit with our strategic direction.

We seek to maximise the value of the commodities we produce through effective marketing that ensures we respond to our customers' needs in terms of quality, blend, timing, delivery and appropriate pricing and contractual arrangements.

Our work in improving performance across all our operations is focused on achieving market-leading EBITDA margins and hence returns to our shareholders.

We constantly seek to enhance capital productivity in the operation of existing assets, as well as when we design expansions. We continuously identify and capitalise on latent system capacity so that we can safely deliver increased output volumes.

There is no area of our business in which we compromise on safety. We aim for the highest threshold to ensure safety of our employees and others who work with us. We engage in constant vigilance to protect our employees but also to embed the culture that makes safety a forethought rather than an afterthought.

We aim for world-class cost competitiveness and productivity in the operation and management of our assets. Even assets that are already among the lowest cost in their industries are expected to improve incrementally. These improvements are directed at enhancing margins, quickly and efficiently expanding production and positioning us to respond with greater effectiveness to marketing opportunities.

Growth

We explore for and develop new and existing Tier 1 assets. Our objective is to develop these orebodies so as to deliver their greatest potential. We will do so in a way that delivers lasting benefits for our business and host economies and communities.

Key performance indicators

Achievement of our strategy and goals is measured by a mixture of financial and non-financial performance indicators, some of which we link to executive remuneration.

We seek to protect and improve the value of resources through developing a diverse range of stakeholder relationships. We seek to achieve this through rapid organic growth at industry-leading capital and operating costs, without compromising our existing high safety and reliability levels.

Our objective is identifying and accessing major new projects through exploration and establishing lasting and community-oriented presence in resource-rich regions. In Mozambique, Mongolia and Guinea, we have developed comprehensive agreements that will create effective partnerships between the host governments and Rio Tinto. These will deliver value for investors through long-term benefits in operating cost, capital cost and licence to operate and value for the communities in terms of taxes, investment, cost-effective local sourcing and employment.

Licence to operate

External stakeholders are increasing their expectations of us in terms of our transparency in matters such as the taxes we pay but also in the way we engage with governments and the communities that host our operations. This is to ensure they benefit from the prosperity our operations will bring, that we protect the environment and leave a positive legacy when our mining is done. Our work in the area of stakeholder engagement is essential in building and maintaining our licence to operate.

Our approach to sustainable development should enable us to be seen as the industry partner of choice. On the environmental front we monitor and report the levels of greenhouse gases we emit and the volumes of water we consume, we seek to use low carbon energy sources and we engage with environmental agencies and NGOs to protect vulnerable environments.

Globalising the business

Globalising the business gives us many advantages. We have been able to achieve global standards, systems and processes that help us streamline the way we do things. It has encouraged and allowed us to become more agile and efficient as an organisation. Globalisation introduces us to a stimulating range of diversity that we are harnessing. On the one hand it ensures our approaches are appropriate at the local level, on the other the cross-pollination of ideas helps improve many aspects of the way we do business.

Technology and innovation

We apply technology and innovation to improve the way we do things. In particular it helps us to achieve greater safety as well as improving capital efficiency and enhancing productivity. We have adopted an innovative mindset not only by taking advantage of new science and technology, but innovations in our management and processes to find more efficient and effective ways to leverage our existing strengths. We employ innovative scientists and engineers find new ways in which we can protect the environment and improve the lives of those who live in communities surrounding our operations.

Enabling our strategy

Rio Tinto applies an organisation-wide effort to deploy the capabilities and skills required to achieve top performance in all areas. Where needed, we will accelerate and target training and leadership development programmes to ensure all of our people have the opportunity to contribute to achieving distinctiveness in each area.

Business model

We create and preserve value through investing in and operating large-scale, long-term, cost-competitive mines and businesses. The nature of our business means that the life of an orebody may be for many decades. Throughout the life of a business, from initial exploration to final closure and restoration, we commit to the highest standards of sustainable development.

Investing

Explore and evaluate

Rio Tinto has a knowledgeable and experienced in-house exploration team with a proven track record for discovering of Tier 1 orebodies. In addition to exploration, we create value through expansions and extensions of existing assets. Rio Tinto's orebody knowledge process allows us to evaluate value-enhancing approaches to developing, operating and expanding our resources and positioning our products in the market.

Develop

Rio Tinto develops orebodies with long-term value delivery in mind. Following the discovery of a resource, it must be thoroughly studied to identify the optimal configuration for development of the orebody and delivery of the product to the market. In some cases, we need to work closely with our customers to develop and prepare the market to take the type or grade of product that would enable us to maximise the value of resource over its lifecycle, for example by extending the life of the mine. As studies are undertaken, economic modelling confirms value. Once we have obtained internal and external approvals, the project moves to implementation and construction.

Operating

Rio Tinto creates value through safely and efficiently operating large, long-term, cost-competitive assets and the use of standard operating and maintenance practices across the Group, investing in our world-class assets throughout their lifecycles. An efficient process reduces the use of consumables, increases equipment operating time and optimises the extraction of ore – all of which results in higher production levels, reduced costs and optimisation of value.

Mine

We move millions of tonnes of material every day. We use world-class technologies and processes to plan, operate and maintain our equipment and activities. We invest and apply innovations to optimise productivity.

Process

Our leading proprietary technologies, such as that for aluminium smelting, ensure that recoveries are maximised and our processes are as efficient as possible. We produce material that is of the right quality for our customers.

Market

The majority of our customers are industrial companies who process our products into a wide range of applications supplied to end-users in the construction and infrastructure, automotive, industrial machinery and equipment, energy and consumer goods markets. We invest in long-term partnerships and constantly innovate and improve our products and services to maximise product value to customers. We then leverage our intimate knowledge of the market and the value chain to support our investment decision-making.

Deliver

In many cases, Rio Tinto is responsible for delivering product to our customers. We do this in a variety of ways, efficiently, reliably and cost effectively.

Close-down and restore

When a resource reaches the end of its life, we are committed to high standards of close-down and restoration. Integrating closure planning in the early stages of project development and through an asset's lifecycle helps us to leave a positive legacy of sustainable development, minimise financial impacts and ensure stakeholder expectations are met.