

RIO TINTO

News release...

27 June 2003

Kennecott announces layoffs

Rio Tinto's wholly owned Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC) announced on 26 June 2003 that approximately 120 hourly union represented operations and maintenance employees will receive notice on Thursday and Friday (June 26-27) that they will be laid off.

KUC President and CEO, Bill Champion, said, " With continuing low prices, the market for copper remains depressed and the industry continues to struggle. Although we have signed a new labour contract that will help the Company improve our competitive position within the industry, this previously anticipated layoff is necessary if Kennecott is to secure a longer and more sustainable mining future. In early June, I communicated with all our employees regarding an impending layoff." Champion added, "This reduction in force has been driven by business necessity and will result in operational changes throughout our plant facilities. It is unfortunate that we will lose some of our dedicated and valued employees."

Chris Crowl, KUC Vice President of Human Resources, said the employees will be paid through July 5th and that the Company will provide outplacement services. The Company is also reviewing salaried employee levels and contractor support, he said.

Utah Copper's workforce has now been reduced to about 1425 employees because of continuing low copper prices, which are compounded by current low levels of gold and molybdenum production, and the cost pressures associated with an aging mine. More than 50 percent of America's copper mining operations are shut down, and many of the nation's mines remain closed or operate at reduced levels.

For further information, please contact:

AUSTRALIA

Media Relations

Ian Head

Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3620

Mobile: +61 (0) 408 360 101

Investor Relations

Dave Skinner

Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3628

Mobile: +61 (0) 408 335 309

Daphne Morros

Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3639

Mobile: +61 (0) 408 360 764

Website: www.riotinto.com

LONDON

Media Relations

Lisa Cullimore

Office: +44 (0) 20 7753 2305

Mobile: +44 (0) 7730 418 385

Investor Relations

Peter Cunningham

Office: +44 (0) 20 7753 2401

Mobile: +44 (0) 7711 596 570

Richard Brimelow

Office: +44 (0) 20 7753 2326

Mobile: +44 (0) 7753 583 825

Rio Tinto Limited 55 Collins Street Melbourne 3000 Australia (ACN 004 458 404)

Postal Address: GPO Box 384D Melbourne 3001 Australia

Telephone (03) 9283 3333 Fax (03) 9283 3707