

RIO TINTO Rights issue – Frequently Asked Questions

18 June 2009

The information below does not constitute financial product advice and has been prepared without reference to the investment objectives, financial situation, tax position or particular needs of any margin lending clients. You should seek your own independent financial, legal, tax and other professional advice if you have any questions in relation to the matters set out below.

1. What's happening with Rio Tinto shares (RIO)?

The board of Rio Tinto have announced fully underwritten Rights Issues will be offered to existing holders of RIO.

The offer is 21 new Rio Tinto Limited shares at a price of A\$28.29 per share for every 40 existing Rio Tinto Limited shares held at 7.00 pm (Melbourne time) on 22 June 2009.

2. What do I need to do if I want to accept the RIO Rights offer and pay for the new shares using my margin loan?

You need to return your original Entitlement and Acceptance Form (no faxed or scanned copies) to St. George Direct Margin Lending (Reply Paid 1467, Royal Exchange NSW 1224) by 24 June 2009 at 5pm (Sydney time) so we can get it back to the share registry in time for the registry cut off of 1 July 2009.

If you have not received your Entitlement and Acceptance Form in the post you can log onto the Computershare website and download your Entitlement and Acceptance Form by going to www.computershare.com.au

- Ø investor centre
- Ø holding enquiry
- Ø enter RIO, HIN and postcode
- Ø click on my documents

St. George Direct Margin Lending cannot download the form on your behalf.

3. When will loan funds be drawn?

We will draw the loan funds shortly after we confirm receipt of your Entitlements and Acceptance Form.

4. Can I trade my RIO Rights?

RIO Rights can be traded from 17 June to 24 June 2009. Any settlement of these trades will be deferred until 30 June 2009.

If you are using *directshares* as your broker and you want to sell your RIO Rights, please contact our Account Management Team on 1300 300 128 between 8am and 6pm (Sydney time) Monday to Friday.

If you buy RIO Rights using funds from your margin loan, St.George Direct Margin Lending will not debit your loan until settlement on 30 June 2009, however your available funds will be reduced by the trade amount immediately. Your RIO Rights purchase will be visible on your St.George Direct Margin loan account once the contract note is processed.

5. If I'm not trading my RIO Rights, will I be able to see them on my margin loan account?

As St.George Direct Margin Lending do not have visibility of the RIO Rights, we are unable to display Rio Rights on your margin loan account or allocate any value to the RIO Rights until such time as CHESS makes the holdings visible.

6. What happens if I take up the offer?

You will be issued with deferred settlement shares from Thursday 25 June 2009. These will then convert to RIO shares on Friday 10 July 2009.

7. What happens if I don't take up the offer?

If you do not take up the offer to purchase the New Rio Tinto Shares by the cut off date of 1 July 2009, your rights to buy the new RIO shares will be renounced. You will be left with your existing RIO holdings.

8. If I purchase RIO Rights (RIOR), or RIO shares before 22 June will I be entitled to take up the offer?

Yes however you may not receive your pack from Computershare containing the Entitlement and Acceptance form until after the 26 June 2009.

Given the tight deadlines imposed by the share registry, if you want to accept the offer and use funds from their margin loan to pay for the new RIO shares, please contact us prior to the 26 June 2009 to arrange for us to drawdown your loan (if there are sufficient available funds) and transfer the funds to your nominated bank account, where you can purchase the new RIO shares using BPAY. We are unable to BPAY on your behalf.

In this instance you should not send the Entitlement and Acceptance form to us. You will need to pay for the offer as per instructions on your Entitlement and Acceptance form by 1 July 2009.

9. What if I haven't received my Entitlement and Acceptance Form?

You can check via the Computershare website to see if your Entitlement and Acceptance Form is available:

www.computershare.com.au

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Where can I go for more information?

Information is available on the Rio Tinto website at www.riotinto.com or you can call the Rio Tinto helpline on 1800 813 292.