

Private and confidential

Assessment Officer
Department of State Development, Infrastructure
Local Government and Planning
RPI Act Development Assessment Team
PO Box 15009
BRISBANE QLD 4002

23 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION TO NOTIFY ASSESSMENT APPLICATION

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited (**the Applicant**) are applying for a Regional Development Interests Approval (**RIDA**) to carry out exploration activities within a Strategic Environment Area (**SEA**). In support of the request for an assessment application, we respectfully apply to the Chief Executive for exemption from public notification under section 34 (3) of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (**RPI Act**).

Pursuant to section 34 (2) (a) of the RPI Act an applicant for an assessment application must publish a notice about the assessment if a regulation prescribes it as notifiable. Section 13 (1) of the *Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014* (**RPI Regulations**) prescribes that an assessment application is notifiable if the area of the regional interest in which the resource activity is proposed to be carried out is a Priority Living Area (PLA).

The assessment application is to undertake exploration activities within the Gulf Rivers SEA and therefore, in accordance with section 13 (1) of the RPI Regulations we request exemption from public notification as the assessment application is not within a PLA area of regional interest.

Further, the Applicant has negotiated a Conduct and Compensation Agreement (**CCA**) pursuant to Chapter 3 of the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014* with each landholder. The CCA includes the proposed activities under the current assessment application. A native title agreement has also been negotiated with the Waanyi People and cultural heritage surveys have been conducted over the areas for the proposed activities. Lastly, the applicant has three current RIDAs for the Gulf Rivers SEA being RPI22/026, RPI23/002 & RPI24/002. The RIDAs are all on the same Lot on Plan parcel with the same landholder, and each were notified in the Queensland Country Life and did not receive any submissions during the public notice period nor the appeal period. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully asserts that there has been sufficient notification of the activity to the public as required by section 34 (3) of the RPI Act.

Should you have any questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0436 809 848 or via email at Mathew.johannesen@riotinto.com.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mathew', written over the closing 'Yours faithfully,'.

Mathew Johannesen
Specialist – Land & Mineral Rights
Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited