



## **CFMEU Mining & Energy Division**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Australian mine workers tell Rio Tinto to get off the Olympic podium**

The CFMEU Miners Union has urged the Australian Olympic Committee to oppose the involvement of mining giant Rio Tinto in the London Olympics over its record on labour rights and environmental vandalism.

CFMEU Mining General Secretary Andrew Vickers has appealed to Australia's representative on the International Olympics Committee John Coates to intervene at the highest levels to ensure the London Olympics weren't tainted by Rio Tinto's corporate performance.

Rio Tinto is supplying 99% of the gold, silver and bronze to be used in the Olympic medals.

"We call upon the National Olympic Committee to reflect on these realities as they prepare their finest young men and women athletes to take part in this noble sporting event," said Mr Vickers.

"Rio Tinto presents itself to the public and investor community as a responsible and ethical mining company that is committed to sustainable development.

"However, its track record tells a different story. Rio Tinto has been the subject of criticism and legal action on allegations related to environmental damage, human rights abuses and labour violations in countries around the world."

Rio Tinto has been linked to serious cases of environmental degradation and contamination in Indonesia, Africa and United States; forcible eviction of citizens and human rights violations in Indonesia and lock-outs of workers in the US and Canada.

Eight hundred metal workers in Quebec, Canada have been locked out since the end of last year from a profitable smelter because they refused a plan that put new starters on insecure work arrangements with half the pay.

"We fully support the mineworkers in Alma, Quebec and will take necessary action to show our solidarity and commitment to ensuring a resolution is reached immediately," said Mr Vickers.

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