



26 April 2005

The General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
DICKSON ACT 2602

Attention: Mr Scott Gregson

Dear Mr Gregson,

**Application for Authorisation A30239 – A30241 lodged by Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd – queue management system**

Rio Tinto Coal Australia Pty Limited (*RTCA*) is the manager of two mines that ship coal via the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (*DBCT*) - Blair Athol, which is a 12Mtpa thermal coal mine, and Hail Creek which is a 6Mtpa coking coal mine.

RTCA is supportive of the submission made by Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd (*DBCTP/L*) regarding the proposed queue management system at DBCT to address the imbalance between the demand for coal loading services and the available system capacity of the Goonyella coal chain to deliver coal from the mines to the awaiting vessels.

The proposal outlined in DBCTP/L's submission is a rational way for exporters to gain certainty as to their ability to export, whilst at the same time ensuring the excessive deadweight cost that demurrage creates is minimised. In addition, implementation of the system will help to restore some of DBCT's reputation as a reliable export terminal.

RTCA supports the system's immediate implementation, effective 1 April 2005, as the proposal will allow the mines to respond in a measured way over the period 1 April to 30 June to reduce the vessel arrival rate to ensure that the current excessive queue of vessels is reduced by the end of June.

As such, RTCA respectfully requests that the Commission grants interim authorisation as requested by DBCTP/L without amendment.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Tom Biddulph on 0417 921 850, email [tom.biddulph@rtca.riotinto.com.au](mailto:tom.biddulph@rtca.riotinto.com.au).

Yours faithfully,



Graham Taggart  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**Rio Tinto Coal Australia Pty Limited**