



pure kiwi mettle

**NEW ZEALAND'S ALUMINIUM SMELTER**

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Prime Minister Ardern re-opens Potline 4 at Tiwai Point smelter**

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern today officially re-opened Potline 4 at New Zealand's Aluminium Smelter (NZAS) at Tiwai Point.

Majority owner Rio Tinto has invested NZ\$6 million this year to upgrade and restart Potline 4 at the smelter, adding 31,000 tonnes of production capacity.

Rio Tinto Aluminium chief operating officer Pacific Operations Kellie Parker said "We are proud to join the Prime Minister in marking this important milestone for the team at Tiwai Point and the country's manufacturing sector.

"Expanding the production capacity at NZAS will allow us to meet the demand from customers for the value added products made here.

"Restarting this potline will increase the smelter's production capacity by around 10% and, with increased orders for other products, has created 45 jobs."

The investment is underpinned by the strong market for NZAS' products, significant enhancements in the competitiveness of the smelter and a new partnership with Meridian Energy to provide additional clean hydro energy until 2022.

The potline was shut down in 2012 as the industry faced historically low aluminium prices and higher energy cost.

NZAS chief executive and general manager Stew Hamilton said "We produce aluminium with one of the lowest carbon footprints in the world. This is incredibly important to many of our manufacturing customers and helps them to meet the expectations of consumers buying products like computers, cars, food and drinks.

“I am also proud to announce that NZAS will become the next one of Rio Tinto’s operations to undergo the rigorous Aluminium Stewardship Initiative certification process. This will extend our leadership on responsible production by providing independent verification that our metal meets the highest environmental, social and governance standards.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

- NZAS produced nearly 340,000 tonnes of aluminium in 2017, generating NZ\$1 billion in export revenue.
- Rio Tinto is pioneering responsible production for the aluminium industry as the only company currently able to sell material independently certified by the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI), that customers can be assured has been produced to the highest environmental, social and governance standards.
- The Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) is a global, multi-stakeholder, non-profit standards setting and certification organisation. It works toward responsible production, sourcing and stewardship of aluminium following an entire value chain approach.
- Rio Tinto’s ASI Certified Aluminium is produced using a ‘chain of custody’ spanning the Gove bauxite mine in Australia to its alumina refinery, aluminium smelters and casthouses in Quebec, Canada.
- ASI’s 70+ members include leading civil society organisations, companies with activities in bauxite mining, alumina refining, aluminium smelting, semi-fabrication, product and component manufacturing, as well as consumer and commercial goods, including the automotive industry, construction and packaging, as well as industry associations and other supporters.

For more information, visit [www.aluminium-stewardship.org](http://www.aluminium-stewardship.org).

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