



HD **FED:Rio profit more than doubles =3**

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RIO **iron ore** earnings were up 10 per cent on the prior year.

The next largest contributor to earnings was **copper**, followed by the long troubled aluminium division .

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The **energy** division, which includes **coal** and **uranium**, improved to a \$US19 **million** loss.

That comes in the wake of Rio's disastrous \$US4 **billion**-plus loss on the **sale** of its **coal** assets in Mozambique.

The **company**'s net debt reduced by \$US1.9 **billion** in the six months to \$US16.1 **billion** (\$A17.42 **billion**).

Mr Walsh said he was confident of the long term fundamentals of demand for its products, while recognising the changing nature of **China**'s economic development.

"Global GDP growth in 2014 is expected to exceed three per cent which will support commodity demand," he said.

"The **Chinese** government is dealing effectively with the rebalancing of its economy, with its desired GDP growth of 7.5 per cent in 2014 on target."

China is Rio's key **iron ore** market and Mr Walsh said high cost **iron ore** producers were exiting the market, leaving Rio well placed.

Extra supply through large expansions of major mines has led to predictions of over-supply and falling **iron ore** prices.

RIO TINTO MORE THAN DOUBLES HALF YEAR PROFIT

* Net profit of \$US4.4b, up from \$US1.72b in 2013

* Underlying earnings of \$US5.12b, up 21% from \$US4.23b

* Interim dividend of 96 US cents per share, up from 83.5 US cents

BREAKDOWN OF RIO TINTO'S PERFORMANCE

* **Iron ore** made a \$US4.68b profit, up 10 pct from \$US4.27b in 2013

* **Coal** made a \$US19m loss, up 63 pct from a \$US52m loss

* **Copper** made a \$US594m profit, up 71 pct from \$US348m

* Aluminium made a \$US373m profit, up 74 pct from \$US214m

* Diamonds/minerals made a \$US160m profit, down 17 pct from \$192m

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