

# Rio Tinto

# Water Engagement Initiative

## – Information session

March 2019



# Today's agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Purpose of this meeting
- Rio Tinto operations overview
- Intent of the Water Engagement Initiative (WEI)
- Overview of the Multi-Party Decision Process (MPDP)
- Your potential role
- Available resources
- Next Steps



# Facilitator introductions

- Rahul Ray, lead facilitator, EDI
- Jason Collier, support facilitator, EDI
- We are not Rio Tinto employees



# Purpose of this meeting

- Discuss the Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative
- Identify and refine the preliminary project scope
- Outline the proposed Multi-Party Decision Process
- Identify and address barriers to participation
- Discuss your interest in participating
- Confirm next steps



# Participant introductions

- Your name
- Your interest



# Rio Tinto introduction

- Why is Rio Tinto doing this at all?
- Guiding Principles:
  - Province of BC Water Use Plan Guidelines
  - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
  - Renewed Rio Tinto approaches and relationships



# Rio Tinto introduction (2)

- Platform of mutual understanding:
  - Interests
  - Data
  - Research
  - Water and Land Use
  - Cultural Uses
  - Economy
  - Global Impact
  - Societal demand
  - Flexible with time and recognizing these things change



# Rio Tinto introduction (3)

- Not “Duty to Consult” or “Impact Assessment”
- Plan stays live and adapts with time
- Can accommodate new initiatives





# Rio Tinto Operations Overview





# Water Engagement Initiative

## Rio Tinto BC Works operational area



# Water Engagement Initiative (WEI)

- Purpose of the WEI
- Focused on reservoir operations and downstream interests
- Intent: collaboration with:
  - Indigenous communities
  - municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government; and
  - stakeholders
- Identify ways of improving reservoir operations in consideration of multiple interests
- Build long-term, collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities and stakeholders



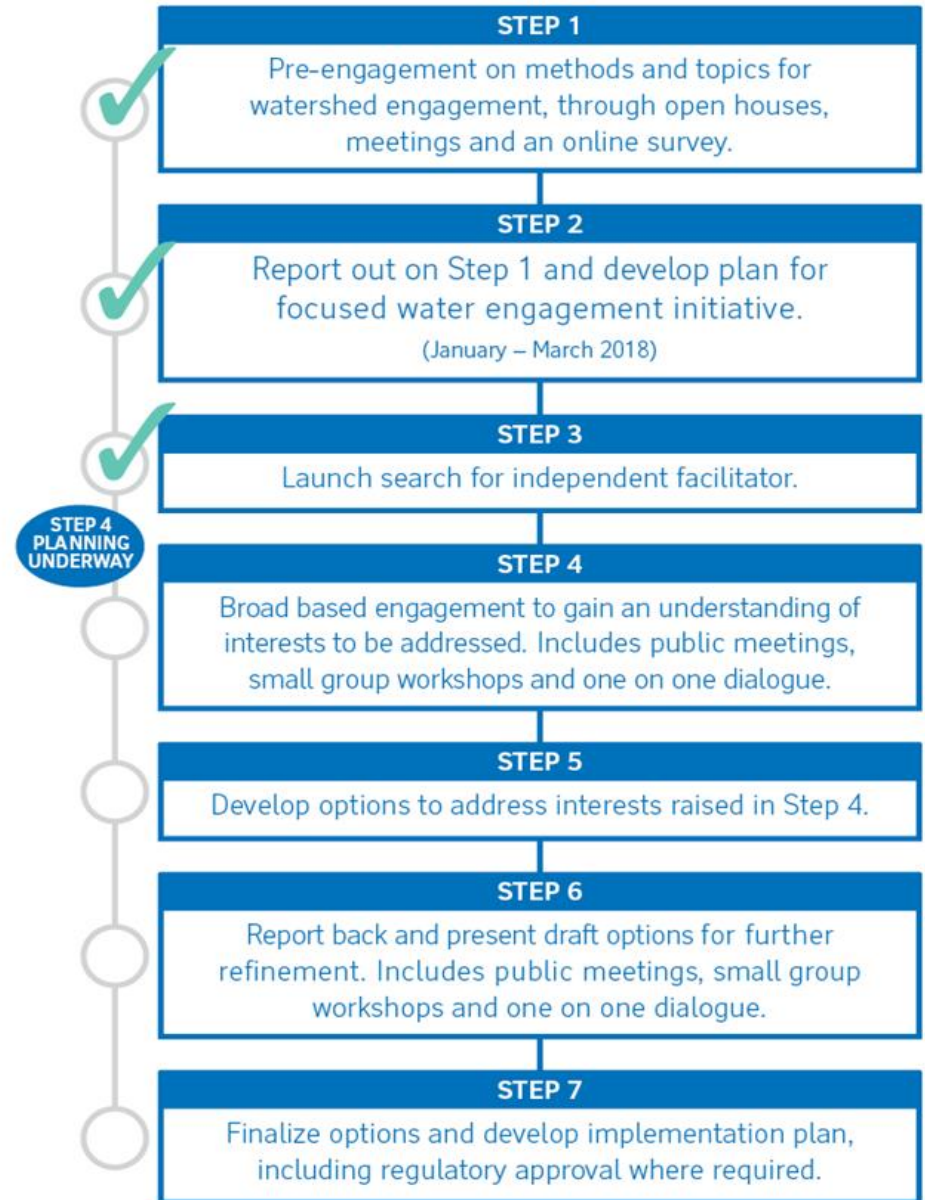
# Water Engagement Initiative

Process description



# WEI Overview

- Step 1-3: Complete
- Step 4: 2018-2019
- Step 5: 2019
- Step 6: 2019-2020
- Step 7: 2020



# WEI preliminary scope

- Scope may include, but will be shaped by participants:
  - spillway discharge schedules
  - flood management measures
  - reservoir levels
  - downstream flow and water temperature targets
  - fisheries and monitoring plans
  - infrastructure
  - research
  - communication
  - **other interests brought forward by participants**



# WEI regulatory context

- Historical and regulatory considerations include:
  - 1950 Agreement and conditional water license
  - 1987 Settlement Agreement and associated flow schedule for the Nechako River
  - 1997 Agreement and associated Final Water License
- May require regulatory approval, particularly decisions affecting public safety, environmental interests, and Indigenous interests



# Multi-Party Decision Process





# Multi-Party Decision Process

- **What is it?:** Process to share interests, review information, develop alternatives, and ultimately select a viable option
- **Based on:** Province of British Columbia Water Use Plan (WUP) guidelines, principles, and approaches
- Active participation of representatives from Indigenous communities, other levels of government, and stakeholders
- **Estimated process timeframe:** 18 months
- **Transparent process:** The process, periodic updates, and the results will be public



# Guiding principles

- Support collaboration, cooperation, and inclusiveness
- Respect existing legal and constitutional rights and responsibilities
- Recognize that trade-offs and choices may need to occur
- Embody science and continuous learning
- Focus on issue resolution and long-term benefits
- Adapt to changing conditions



# Potential participation

- Indigenous communities and organizations
- stakeholder groups
- municipal and regional governments
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- BC Government Ministries
- Members of the public



# MPDP - Proposed phases

- Initiate planning process
- Scope issues and interests
- Identify information needs
- Develop management alternatives
- Analyze alternatives, assessing trade-offs



# MPDP - Proposed phases (2)

- Determine areas of consensus and non-agreement
- Prepare draft plan
- Submit draft plan to agencies that have regulatory role (Province of BC Water Comptroller, DFO)
- Complete regulatory refinements needed
- Implement the plan
- Monitor changes



# Main table

- Participation by interested Indigenous communities
- Municipal, provincial, and federal government representatives
- Interested stakeholders
- Public



# Technical Advisory Group

- A Technical Advisory Group to provide timely technical information and analyses outlined by the main table.
- Main table participants can also be members of the Technical Advisory Group
- The Technical Advisory Group will meet on a regular basis by telephone or in person and will be supported by a **Technical Coordinator**
- Ecofish as Technical Advisory Group coordinator



# Technical Coordinator

- Ecofish introduction
- Wealth of information exists in the form of past studies in the Nechako region
- Some new data gathering may be required to support the Multi-Party Decision Process
- Oversee information compilation and data gathering efforts
- Conduct analyses under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Group, Main Table, and facilitator





# Resulting plan will be adaptable

- Remain responsive to Indigenous and stakeholder interests
- Adapt to changing climate and societal expectations
- Create long-term relationships to respond to emerging issues
- Support transparency and accountability



# Next Steps, Process Planning



# Your role in the short term

- Help refine and shape the process
- Identify potential barriers to participation as part of the main table: travel costs, participation costs, others?
- Help address those barriers
- Confirm participation



# Your role in the planning process

- During planning process, help identify:
  - Scope
  - Objectives
  - Targets
  - Preferred alternatives
  - Monitoring programs
  - Other components



# Next Steps, WEI



# Next Steps

- Information sessions this week
- Participant confirmation
- Connect with participants in preparation for the first meeting
- Launch Multi-Party Decision Process in April 2019



# Questions and Discussion

Thank you for your time!

