



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 JULY 2016**

## **Rio Tinto's Zara Fisher wins scholarship to INSEAD, France**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) today announced Rio Tinto's Zara Fisher is the winner of a scholarship to study advanced management at the prestigious INSEAD business school in Fontainebleau, France in 2016.

Announcing the winner, President of CEW, Diane Smith-Gander, said: "CEW is proud to provide scholarships to women from across all business units to strengthen their leadership skills and enable them to take their careers to the next level."

"One reason often given for the lack of female directors on resource company boards, is that there are too few women in the pipeline with operational experience. Zara runs railways in one of the biggest business units in one of the world's largest resource companies – that's relevant operational experience any board would value."

### **The winner**

Zara Fisher is General Manager Railway Operations within Rio Tinto Iron Ore in Western Australia. She is accountable for operational and safety leadership of teams across the Pilbara and in Perth, integration of new technologies, and future and innovation studies for the heavy haul railway. Zara has worked in the mining industry for over 20 years both in Australia and internationally.

Zara expects the scholarship will help her leverage her strengths as a leader, gain further insight into global best practices, and help her build critical thinking skills to apply to the business challenges facing the mining industry today.

"I believe the INSEAD experience will help to foster my sense of confidence to ask the right questions and ultimately make the best judgements possible. This will be particularly helpful in enabling me to contribute to the robust discussion amongst our leadership community to ensure our businesses are prepared and enabled for success," Zara said.

### **The scholarship**

The scholarship will enable Zara to attend the four week Advanced Management Program at INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France, one of the world's leading and largest international business schools.

The Advanced Management Program is a complete general management program, which helps senior leaders to address all aspects of leadership. It casts a spotlight on the process of judgement and demonstrates that exercising judgement is neither art nor science, but a craft that can be honed with practice, reflection, feedback and coaching.

Zara is the second woman from Rio Tinto to be awarded this prestigious scholarship.

In 2014, Sinead Kaufman, then general manager of the company's Tom Price and Marandoo iron ore mines, said the program helped her advance her career.

"There has only ever been a minority of women in mining, and very few at the top. It's very important women do courses such as the Advanced Management Program to see that they can take the next step up," said Sinead Kaufman Project Lead – Leading for Success, Global Business Services, Rio Tinto.

ENDS

### ***About CEW Scholars ([www.cew.org.au/scholarships](http://www.cew.org.au/scholarships))***

The CEW Scholars program enables women leaders by supporting them at critical junctures in their careers, from their first management roles to top executive positions. More than 100 women have been awarded scholarships to business schools in Australia and internationally since CEW commenced its executive program for women leaders in 1992.

### ***CEW Scholars program is funded through the CEW annual dinner and the generosity of sponsors including:***

PLATINUM SPONSOR: KING & WOOD MALLESONS. OFFICIAL AIRLINE SPONSOR: QANTAS. TECHNOLOGY SPONSOR: TELSTRA. GOLD SPONSORS: ANZ, BROADSPECTRUM, EY, KPMG, QBE. SILVER SPONSORS: ALLENS LINKLATERS, AMP, ASHURST, AUDREY PAGE & ASSOCIATES, BHP BILLITON, BCG, COMMONWEALTH BANK, DAN MURPHY'S, DEUTSCHE BANK, EGON ZEHNDER, GPT, HARVEY NORMAN, IAG, LENDLEASE, MACQUARIE, MICROSOFT, MIRVAC, NAB, SPENCER STUART, SYDNEY AIRPORT, UBS, WESFARMERS, WESTPAC GROUP, WILLIS and NINE ENTERTAINMENT.

### ***About Chief Executive Women ([www.cew.org.au](http://www.cew.org.au))***

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 370 of Australia's most senior women from the corporate, public, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Its mission is "women leaders enabling women leaders". Through advocacy, targeted programs and scholarships, CEW works to remove the barriers to women's progression and ensure equal opportunity for prosperity. CEW offers

innovative and substantive programs aimed at enabling women's participation and future leadership.

***For further information, please contact:***

Lisa Jervis 0419 432 239, [lisa@cew.org.au](mailto:lisa@cew.org.au)

Anthony Havers 0459 847 758 [anthony.havers@riotinto.com](mailto:anthony.havers@riotinto.com)