

BHP BILLITON PLC
Form 6-K
July 22, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

July 22, 2009

BHP BILLITON LIMITED

(ABN 49 004 028 077)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

BHP BILLITON PLC

(REG. NO. 3196209)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE,

ENGLAND AND WALES
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,

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VICTORIA

UNITED KINGDOM

3000 AUSTRALIA
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F: Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934: Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: 22 July 2009

By: /s/ Jane McAloon
Name: Jane McAloon
Title: Group Company Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time IMMEDIATE
Date 22 July 2009
Number 14/09

BHP BILLITON EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT**FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

This report covers the Group's exploration and development activities for the quarter ended 30 June 2009. Unless otherwise stated, BHP Billiton's interest in the projects referred to in this report is 100 percent and references to project schedules are based on calendar years.

Development

First production was successfully achieved during the quarter at the Gemco Expansion Project in Australia (manganese) and the Atlantis North development in the deep water Gulf of Mexico (oil and gas). Both projects were ahead of schedule and within budget. In addition, the Alumar Refinery Expansion in Brazil (alumina) announced first production on 9 July. These projects will no longer be reported in future Exploration and Development Reports.

During the year ended 30 June 2009 an additional four projects to those noted above achieved first production and four projects were sanctioned. The four commissioned projects, all oil and gas, were Neptune, North West Shelf Train 5, North West Shelf Angel and Shenzi. The sanctioned projects were the Bass Strait Turrum, Angostura Gas Phase II and the North West Shelf Cossack, Wanaea, Lambert, Hermes (CWLH) Life Extension projects (all oil and gas), as well as the Western Australia Iron Ore Rapid Growth Project 5 (iron ore).

Project And Ownership	Share Of Approved Capex US\$M	Initial Production Target Date	Production Capacity (100%)	Quarterly Progress
Petroleum Projects				
Atlantis North (USA)				
44%				
Oil/Gas	185	H2 CY09	Tieback to Atlantis South	First production achieved 5 June 2009, ahead of schedule and within budget.
Pyrenees (Australia)				
71.43%				
Oil/Gas	1,200	H1 CY10	96,000 barrels of oil and 60 million cubic feet gas per day	On schedule and budget. Floating Production Storage and Offtake (FPSO) conversion continues. Final 3 of 15 tophole sections drilled and 2 producers and 1 injector well completed. Installation of subsea facilities continues.
Angostura Gas Phase II (Trinidad and Tobago)				
45%				
Gas	180	H1 CY11	280 million cubic feet gas per day	On schedule and budget. Platform fabrication continues.
Bass Strait Kipper (Australia)				
32.5% - 50%				
Gas/Gas Liquids	500	CY11	10,000 bpd condensate and processing capacity of 80 million cubic feet gas per day	On schedule and budget. West Tuna platform retrofit work continuing.

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Bass Strait Turrum (Australia)

50%		11,000 bpd condensate and processing capacity of 200 million cubic feet gas per day	On schedule and budget. Commenced jacket and topsides fabrication ahead of schedule.
Gas/Gas Liquids	625 CY11		

North West Shelf CWLH Life Extension (Australia)

16.67%		Replacement vessel with capacity of 60,000 bpd oil	On schedule and budget. Floating Production Storage and Offtake (FPSO) conversion continues.
Oil	245 CY11		

North West Shelf North Rankin B Gas Compression (Australia)

16.67%		2,500 million cubic feet gas per day	On schedule and budget. Jacket fabrication continuing ahead of schedule.
LNG	850 CY12		

Minerals Projects

Alumar Refinery Expansion (Brazil)

36%
 Alumina 900 Q2 CY09 2 million tpa of additional alumina First production announced. See News Release dated 9 July 2009.

Worsley Efficiency & Growth (Australia)
 86%
 Alumina 1,900 H1 CY11 1.1 million tpa of additional alumina On schedule and budget. Engineering is 75% complete and construction has commenced. Capital expenditure profile is being managed to reflect changing market conditions.

Iron Ore (Western Australia)

RGP4
 86.2%
 Iron Ore 1,850 H1 CY10 26 million tpa of additional iron ore system capacity On schedule and budget. Engineering is 99% complete and construction is over 90% complete.

Iron Ore (Western Australia)

RGP5
 85%
 Iron Ore 4,800 H2 CY11 50 million tpa additional iron ore system capacity On schedule and budget. Engineering is currently 70% complete. Procurement and contracting activities are well advanced. Construction activities are continuing at all sites.

Gemco (Australia)

60%
 Manganese 110 H1 CY09 1 million tpa of additional manganese concentrate First ore delivered ahead of schedule and within budget.

Klipspruit (South Africa)

100%
 Energy Coal 450 H2 CY09 Incremental 1.8 million tpa export thermal coal. Incremental 2.1 million tpa domestic thermal coal On schedule and budget. Commissioning of the crushing stream and coal processing plant is progressing. Project is 91% complete.

Douglas-Middelburg Optimisation (South Africa)

100%
 Energy Coal 975 Mid CY10 10 million tpa export thermal coal and 8.5 million tpa domestic thermal coal (sustains current output) On schedule and budget. Construction activities are progressing and first stacker reclaimer delivered. Steel erection and coal processing plant equipment installation remains on schedule. Project is 70% complete.

Newcastle Third Port Project (Australia)

35.5%
 Energy Coal 390 CY10 30 million tpa export coal loading facility On schedule and budget. Stacker reclaimer components delivered and construction activities are progressing well. Project is greater than 63% complete.

Minerals Exploration

BHP Billiton continues to identify and prioritise various exploration activities. All of the exploration activities are reviewed regularly to ensure that we are capturing value accretive opportunities for future development.

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For the year ended 30 June 2009, BHP Billiton spent US\$695 million on minerals exploration, of which US\$609 million was expensed. This includes US\$94 million of exploration spend for potash in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Petroleum Exploration

Exploration and appraisal wells drilled during the quarter or in the process of drilling as at 30 June 2009.

Well	Location	BHP Billiton Equity	Status
	Green Canyon Gulf of Mexico	23.9 % BHP Billiton	Hydrocarbons encountered.
	GC 826	(BHP Billiton operator for this well BP operator for all other activities)	Completing sidetrack drilling operations.
Mad Dog South-1	Browse Basin	8.33% BHP Billiton	Plugged and suspended.
Brecknock-4	Western Australia WA-32-R	(Woodside operator)	Dry hole.

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Petroleum exploration expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2009 was US\$548 million, of which US\$400 million was expensed.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our website: www.bhpbilliton.com

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A member of the BHP Billiton group which is headquartered in Australia