

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
October 21, 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

October 21, 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: 21 October 2009

By: */s/ JANE McALOON*
Name: **Jane McAloon**
Title: **Group Company Secretary**

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time IMMEDIATE
Date 21 October 2009
Number 20/09

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

This report covers the Group's exploration and development activities for the quarter ended 30 September 2009. This report, together with the Production Report, represents the Interim Management Statement for the purposes of the UK Listing Authority's Disclosure and Transparency Rules. There have been no significant changes to the financial position of the Group in the quarter ended 30 September 2009. Unless otherwise stated, BHP Billiton's interest in the projects referred to in this report is 100 per cent and references to project schedules are based on calendar years.

Development

During the quarter, we sanctioned the Mt Arthur Coal mine expansion (energy coal), known as the MAC20 Project, in the Hunter Valley, Australia.

| Project And Ownership | Share Of Approved Capex US\$M | Initial Production Target Date | Production Capacity (100%) | Quarterly Progress |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Petroleum Projects | | | | |
| Pyrenees (Australia) | 71.43% | | 96,000 barrels of oil and 60 million cubic feet gas per day | On schedule and budget. Floating Production Storage and Offtake (FPSO) conversion scope has been completed with sea trials and commissioning activities continuing. Installation of subsea facilities continue. All tophole sections drilled. 5 producers and 1 injector well completed. |
| Oil/Gas Angostura Gas Phase | 1,200 | H1 CY10 | | |
| II (Trinidad and Tobago) | 45% | | 280 million cubic feet gas per day | On schedule and budget. Platform fabrication continues. |
| Gas Bass Strait Kipper | 180 | H1 CY11 | | |
| (Australia) | 32.5% - 50% | | 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. |
| Gas/Gas Liquids Bass Strait Turrum | 500 | CY11 | 11,000 bpd condensate and processing capacity of 200 million cubic feet gas per day | On schedule and budget. Platform fabrication continues. |
| (Australia) | 50% | | | |

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| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------|--|---|
| Gas/Gas Liquids | | | | |
| North West Shelf | | | | |
| CWLH Life Extension | | | | |
| (Australia) | | | | |
| 16.67% | | | | |
| Oil | 245 | CY11 | Replacement vessel with capacity of 60,000 bpd oil | On schedule and budget. Floating Production Storage and Offtake (FPSO) conversion continues. |
| North West Shelf | | | | |
| North Rankin B Gas | | | | |
| Compression | | | | |
| (Australia) | | | | |
| 16.67% | | | | |
| LNG | 850 | CY12 | 2,500 million cubic feet gas per day | On schedule and budget. Jacket fabrication continuing ahead of schedule. |
| Minerals Projects | | | | |
| Worsley Efficiency & | | | | |
| Growth (Australia) | | | | |
| 86% | | | | |
| Alumina | 1,900 | H1 CY11 | 1.1 million tpa of additional alumina | On schedule and budget. Engineering is 85% complete and construction has commenced. Procurement and contracting activities are well advanced. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------|--|
| Iron Ore | | | |
| (Western Australia) | | | |
| RGP4 | | | On schedule and budget. Engineering is complete, construction is essentially complete, and commissioning activities are well advanced. First ore is expected to be produced in Q4 CY09. |
| 86.2% | | | |
| Iron Ore | 1,850 | H1 CY10 | 26 million tpa of additional iron ore system capacity |
| Iron Ore | | | |
| (Western Australia) | | | |
| RGP5 | | | On schedule and budget. Engineering is over 80% complete, procurement and contracting activities are well advanced, and construction has reached 18% complete. |
| 85% | | | |
| Iron Ore | 4,800 | H2 CY11 | 50 million tpa additional iron ore system capacity |
| Klipspruit | | | |
| (South Africa) | | | Incremental 1.8 million tpa export thermal coal. |
| 100% | | | On schedule and budget. Commissioning of the crushing stream and coal processing plant Module 1 is complete. Project is 98% complete. |
| Energy Coal | 450 | H2 CY09 | Incremental 2.1 million tpa domestic thermal coal |
| Douglas-Middelburg | | | |
| Optimisation (South Africa) | | | On schedule and budget. Construction activities are progressing well with civil works complete. The erection and installation of the coal processing plant continues. Project is 74% complete. |
| 100% | | | |
| Energy Coal | 975 | Mid CY10 | 10 million tpa export thermal coal and 8.5 million tpa domestic thermal coal (sustains current output) |
| Newcastle Third Port | | | |
| Project (Australia) | | | On schedule and budget. Stacker reclaimers commissioning has commenced with the remaining construction activities progressing well. Project is 75% complete. |
| 35.5% | | | |
| Energy Coal | 390 | CY10 | 30 million tpa export coal loading facility |
| MAC20 Project | | | |
| (Australia) | | | Approval announced, see News Release dated 24 July 2009. |
| 100% | | | On schedule and budget. Fixed plant construction underway. Project is 20% complete. |
| Energy Coal | 260 | H1 CY11 | Increases saleable thermal coal production by approximately 3.5 million tpa |
| 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.

Grassroots exploration continued on copper targets in Chile, Argentina and Zambia; nickel targets in Australia; manganese targets in Gabon; and diamond targets in Canada. Exploration for iron ore, coal, bauxite and manganese was undertaken in a number of regions including Australia, South America, Russia and West Africa.

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For the quarter ended 30 September 2009, BHP Billiton spent US\$104 million on minerals exploration, of which US\$95 million was expensed.

Petroleum Exploration

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

| Well | Location | BHP Billiton Equity 23.9 % BHP Billiton | Status |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Mad Dog South-1 | Green Canyon Gulf of Mexico GC 826 | (BHP Billiton operator for this well BP operator for all other activities) | Hydrocarbons encountered. See News Release dated 17 July 2009. |

Petroleum exploration expenditure for the quarter ended 30 September 2009 was US\$29 million, of which US\$26 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