

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
June 26, 2008

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

June 5, 2008

BHP BILLITON LIMITED

(ABN 49 004 028 077)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

3000 AUSTRALIA

(Address of principal executive offices)

BHP BILLITON PLC

(REG. NO. 3196209)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

ENGLAND AND WALES

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,

UNITED KINGDOM

(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 ☒ [x] No

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

5 June 2008
Number 20/08

BHP BILLITON MITSUBISHI ALLIANCE LIFTS FORCE MAJEURE

BHP Billiton announced today that, effective 5 June 2008, force majeure has been lifted across the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) managed operations (including BHP Billiton Mitsui (BMC)). Force majeure was put in place on 24 January 2008 following extreme weather and flooding across the central Queensland coalfields.

On 25 February 2008, BHP Billiton advised that its equity coal production loss from flooding at its BMA and BMC operations was estimated to be between 3.7 and 4.6 million tonnes. The latest assessment indicates that BHP Billiton's share of production loss is expected to be at the upper end of that range. Discussions are continuing with insurance assessors to progress claims arising from the events.

The extreme weather and declaration of force majeure has also resulted in delivery delays for some of the 2007 sales contracts. Sales from BMA and BMC during the 2008 financial year are expected to include approximately 2.1 million tonnes (BHP Billiton share) of coal priced at the higher 2008 agreed prices. Approximately 1.4 million tonnes (BHP Billiton share) of coal that will be delivered in the first quarter of the next financial year will be sold at 2007 prices.

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

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone +61 1300 554 757 Facsimile +61 3 9609 3015

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH
United Kingdom
Telephone +44 20 7802 4000 Facsimile +44 20 7802 4111

The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia

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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: 5 June 2008

By: Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon
Title: Group Company Secretary