

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 24, 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 No

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

24 June 2008
Number 22/08

BHP BILLITON ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN IRON ORE AND MANGANESE RESOURCES AND RESERVES

BHP Billiton announced a 46 per cent increase in the Mineral Resource and a 23 per cent increase in the Ore Reserve at Western Australia Iron Ore, an 11 per cent increase in the Mineral Resource and a 30 per cent increase in the Ore Reserve at Samarco Mineracao and an 82 per cent increase in the Mineral Resource at Samancor Manganese. Work is in progress to incorporate the new Manganese Resource and estimate its impact on Manganese Reserves.

Western Australia Iron Ore Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve upgrade

The Western Australia Iron Ore Mineral Resource increased by 3.7 billion wet metric tonnes (tonnes) to 11.7 billion tonnes, and the Ore Reserve increased by 571 million wet tonnes to 3 billion tonnes, both in 100 per cent terms. BHP Billiton's attributable share of the Mineral Resource is 10.3 billion tonnes and Ore Reserve is 2.6 billion tonnes.

In 100 per cent terms, approximately 2.3 billion tonnes of Mineral Resource has been defined at the Jinayri and Marillana deposits, 1 billion tonnes has been defined at Area C and Yandi, and 442 million tonnes has been defined at the Eastern Pilbara mining hub.

The strategy to blend Yarrie (Mt Goldsworthy JV - Northern) mine production with Newman and Mining Area C mine production has resulted in an increase in the Yarrie Mineral Resource to 171 million tonnes and in an increase in the Yarrie Ore Reserve to 24 million tonnes in 100 per cent terms.

In 100 per cent terms, the increase in Ore Reserves includes 180 million tonnes of Brockman ore at Packsaddle (Mining Area C), 41 million tonnes of Brockman ore at Newman, 172 million tonnes of Brockman ore at Jimblebar and 178 million tonnes of Channel Iron Deposit ore at Yandi.

Full details are provided in Figures 1, 2 and 3, and Tables 1 and 2.

Samarco Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve upgrade

In 100 per cent terms, the Samarco Mineral Resource increased by 327 million dry tonnes to 3.3 billion tonnes and the Ore Reserve increased by 144 million dry tonnes to 624 million tonnes. BHP Billiton's attributable share of the Mineral Resource and Ore Reserve is now approximately 1.7 billion tonnes and 312 million tonnes respectively. Full details are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

Samancor Manganese Mineral Resource changes

Samancor Manganese Mineral Resource has increased by 213 million dry tonnes to 473 million tonnes, in 100 per cent terms. The increase is mainly due to the inclusion of the Upper Body at Wessels Mine and the Top Cut at Mamatwan mine, along with the signing of the agreement(1) between Samancor Manganese and Ntsimbintle Mining Pty Ltd, a Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) party in the Kalahari. Consent has been given by the Minister to the Ntsimbintle transaction on a section 11 application (the vending of the prospecting rights into an existing mining right); Samancor Manganese Pty Ltd is still awaiting the letter of consent and approval. BHP Billiton's interest in the total Mineral Resource in South Africa has reduced from 60 per cent to 54.6 per cent as a result of the transaction. BHP Billiton's total attributable share of the Manganese Mineral Resources is now 267 million tonnes. Full details are provided in Table 3.

Competent Person's Statement

The statement of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves being presented has been produced in accordance with the Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves, December 2004 (the JORC Code). This information is based on information prepared by the relevant Competent Persons and relates to Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves forecast as at 30 June 2008. Competent Persons are named in footnotes to Tables 1, 2 and 3.

All Competent Persons are full time employees of BHP Billiton (unless otherwise stated), have sufficient experience relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity they are undertaking to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the JORC Code. All Competent Persons are members of either the Australian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (AusIMM) or the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) or a Recognised Overseas Professional Organisation (ROPO). The Competent Persons consent to the inclusion in this report of the matters based on their information in the form and context in which it appears.

(1) Refer note 4 to table 3.

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

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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: 24 June 2008

By: Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon
Title: Group Company Secretary