

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
March 29, 2017

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

March 29, 2017

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| 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) | ENGLAND AND WALES (Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation) |
| 171 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE, | NEATHOUSE PLACE, LONDON, |
| VICTORIA 3000 AUSTRALIA | UNITED KINGDOM |

(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

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29 March 2017

To: Australian Securities Exchange
London Stock Exchange

cc: New York Stock Exchange
JSE Limited

GLOBAL IRON ORE AND STEEL FORECAST CONFERENCE

BHP Billiton Asset President, Western Australia Iron Ore, Edgar Basto, will present at the Global Iron Ore and Steel Forecast Conference, in Perth, Western Australia today.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at www.bhpbilliton.com.

Rachel Agnew
Company Secretary

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077
Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 18, 171 Collins Street Melbourne
Victoria 3000

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209
Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place, London SW1V
1LH United Kingdom

The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time IMMEDIATE

Date 29 March 2017

Release Number 12/17

OUR CULTURE TO DRIVE VALUE AND RETURNS AT WAIO

Speaking at the 20th Annual Global Iron Ore and Steel Forecast Conference, BHP Billiton Western Australia Iron Ore (WAIO) Asset President, Edgar Basto, said that while the growth of low-cost seaborne iron ore supply is expected to outpace incremental demand, the Company is well-positioned to continue to grow value and returns.

Our drive for increased performance focuses on operational discipline and the involvement of front line personnel, and is delivering ongoing improvements in our business, Mr Basto said.

WAIO achieved record production of 136 million tonnes (100 per cent basis) in the December 2016 half year. The completion of the rail renewal and maintenance program in the last quarter of the 2017 financial year, which is running six months ahead of schedule, coupled with the ramp-up of additional capacity at the Jimblebar mining hub and ongoing productivity improvements, are expected to deliver an increase in WAIO system capacity to 290 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) in the 2019 financial year.

BHP Billiton's new operating model is also supporting improved performance, with additional opportunities identified to improve rail cycle times, truck availability and fuel consumption, as well as to increase equipment reliability and extend equipment life, thereby lowering operating costs further.

Mr Basto also outlined the sustaining investment options currently being considered.

Our Yandi mine, located in the central Pilbara, is currently operating at 80 Mtpa but will be depleted over the next five to 10 years. We are looking at options to replace this production. South Flank is the preferred long-term solution, subject to Board approval being obtained. The investment case for using this high-grade deposit for replacement tonnes is strong, given BHP Billiton's ability to utilise existing infrastructure at the Mining Area C operation where possible, Mr Basto said.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: bhpbilliton.com

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Registered in Australia

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Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is

headquartered in Australia

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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

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Registered in England and Wales

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London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom

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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: March 29, 2017

By: /s/ Rachel Agnew
Name: Rachel Agnew
Title: Company Secretary