

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
December 22, 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
December 22, 2017

BHP BILLITON LIMITED

(ABN 49 004 028 077)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

171 COLLINS 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)

NOVA SOUTH, 160 VICTORIA STREET

LONDON, SW1E 5LB

UNITED KINGDOM

(Address of principal executive offices)

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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

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time IMMEDIATE
Date 22 December 2017
Location Melbourne
Release Number 37/17

SAMARCO UPDATE

BHP has agreed to fund a total of up to US\$181 million (BHP Billiton Brasil Ltda (**BHP Brasil**) share) in financial support for the Renova Foundation and Samarco Mineração S.A. (**Samarco**) until 30 June 2018.

An amount of US\$133 million will be used to fund the Renova Foundation to undertake remediation and compensation programs identified under the agreement dated 2 March 2016 between Samarco, Vale S.A., BHP Brasil and the Brazilian Authorities. This amount will be offset against the Group's provision for the Samarco dam failure.

An amount of US\$48 million will be made available to Samarco. This amount includes a short-term facility of up to US\$42 million (BHP Brasil's share) to carry out ongoing repair works, maintain Samarco's facilities and support restart planning, and an amount of US\$6 million to cover fees payable to experts appointed in connection with the remediation and compensation programs. Funds will be released to Samarco only as required, and subject to achievement of key milestones.

Further information on BHP can be found at: **bhp.com**

Note:

Samarco Mineração S.A. is jointly owned by BHP Billiton Brasil Ltda and Vale S.A. Our 50 per cent interest is accounted for as an equity accounted investment.

Media Relations

Email: media.relations@bhpbilliton.com

Australia and Asia

Ben Pratt

Tel: +61 3 9609 3672 Mobile: +61 419 968 734

United Kingdom and South Africa

Neil Burrows

Tel: +44 20 7802 7484 Mobile: +44 7786 661 683

North America

Judy Dane

Tel: +1 713 961 8283 Mobile: +1 713 299 5342

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

LEI WZE1WSENV6JSZFK0JC28

Registered in Australia

Registered Office: Level 18, 171 Collins Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015
Members of the BHP Group which is

Investor Relations

Email: investor.relations@bhpbilliton.com

Australia and Asia

Tara Dines

Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005

United Kingdom and South Africa

Rob Clifford

Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7788 308 844

Americas

James Wear

Tel: +1 713 993 3737 Mobile: +1 347 882 3011

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

LEI 549300C116EOWV835768

Registered in England and Wales

Registered Office: Nova South, 160 Victoria Street

London SW1E 5LB United Kingdom

Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

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: December 22, 2017

By: /s/ Rachel Agnew

Name: Rachel Agnew

Title: Company Secretary