

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
<b>Petroleum Projects</b>				
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  
North West Shelf

245 CY11

Replacement vessel  
with capacity of  
60,000 bpd oil

On schedule and budget. Floating  
Production Storage and Offtake (FPSO)  
conversion continues.

North Rankin B Gas

Compression

(Australia)

16.67%

LNG  
Minerals Projects  
Worsley Efficiency &

850 CY12

2,500 million cubic  
feet gas per day

On schedule and budget. Jacket  
fabrication continuing ahead of  
schedule.

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)			
100%			10 million tpa export thermal coal and 8.5 million tpa domestic thermal coal (sustains current output)
Energy Coal	975	Mid CY10	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.
Newcastle Third Port			
Project (Australia)			
35.5%			On schedule and budget. Stacker reclaimers commissioning has commenced with the remaining construction activities progressing well. Project is 75% complete.
Energy Coal	390	CY10	30 million tpa export coal loading facility
MAC20 Project			
(Australia)			Approval announced, see News Release dated 24 July 2009.
100%			Increases saleable thermal coal production by approximately 3.5 million tpa
Energy Coal	260	H1 CY11	On schedule and budget. Fixed plant construction underway. Project is 20% complete.
<b>Minerals Exploration</b>			

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](http://www.bhpbilliton.com)

### Australia

Samantha Evans, Media Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 2898 Mobile: +61 400 693 915

email: [Samantha.Evans@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Samantha.Evans@bhpbilliton.com)

### United Kingdom

Andre Liebenberg, Investor Relations

Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7920 236 974

email: [Andre.Liebenberg@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Andre.Liebenberg@bhpbilliton.com)

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Peter Ogden, Media Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 2812 Mobile: +61 428 599 190

email: [Peter.Ogden@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Peter.Ogden@bhpbilliton.com)

Kelly Quirke, Media Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 2896 Mobile: +61 429 966 312

email: [Kelly.Quirke@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Kelly.Quirke@bhpbilliton.com)

Leng Lau, Investor Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 4202 Mobile: +61 403 533 706

email: [Leng.Y.Lau@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Leng.Y.Lau@bhpbilliton.com)

### South Africa

Bronwyn Wilkinson, Investor and Media Relations

Tel: +44 20 7802 4015 Mobile: +44 7500 785 892

email: [Bronwyn.Wilkinson@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Bronwyn.Wilkinson@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia

Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

Illtud Harri, Media Relations

Tel: +44 20 7802 4195 Mobile: +44 7920 237 246

email: [Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com)

### United States

Scott Espenshade, Investor Relations

Tel: +1 713 599 6431 Mobile: +1 713 208 8565

email: [Scott.Espenshade@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Scott.Espenshade@bhpbilliton.com)

Ruban Yogarajah, Media Relations

Tel: US +1 713 966 2907 or UK +44 20 7802 4033

Mobile: UK +44 7827 082 022

email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales

Registered Office: Neathouse Place

London SW1V 1BH United Kingdom

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

A member of the BHP Billiton group which is headquartered in Australia