

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
February 02, 2016

**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**  
**February 1, 2016**

**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)**

**NEATHOUSE PLACE, 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):

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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** 1 February 2016

**Release Number** 3/16

**STANDARD & POOR S REVIEW OF BHP BILLITON S CREDIT RATING**

BHP Billiton notes the announcement today, 1 February 2016, by Standard & Poor s that it has lowered the credit ratings of BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc from A+ to A.

The rating on BHP Billiton s senior secured notes has been lowered from A+ to A and subordinated notes from A- to BBB+.

BHP Billiton has also been placed on CreditWatch with negative implications and Standard & Poor s has advised it aims to resolve the CreditWatch after the release of BHP Billiton s Results for the half year ended 31 December 2015.

BHP Billiton has the strongest credit rating in the sector and remains committed to maintaining its strong balance sheet through the cycle.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: **[bhpbilliton.com](http://bhpbilliton.com)**

## Media Relations

### Australia and Asia

Emily Perry  
T +61 3 9609 2800 Mobile +61 477 325 803  
Email: [Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com)

Eleanor Colonico  
T +61 3 9609 2360 Mobile +61 407 064 748  
Email: [Eleanor.Colonico@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Eleanor.Colonico@bhpbilliton.com)

Paul Hitchins  
T + 61 3 9609 2592 Mobile + 61 419 315 001

Email: [Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com)

### United Kingdom and South Africa

Ruban Yogarajah  
T +44 207 802 4033 Mobile +44 7827 082 022

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

Jennifer White  
T +44 207 802 7462 Mobile +44 7827 253 764

Email: [Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com)

### North America

Jaryl Strong  
Tel: +1 713 499 5548 Mobile: +1 281 222 6627  
email: [Jaryl.Strong@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jaryl.Strong@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
BHP Billiton Finance Limited ABN 82 008 519 319  
Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 16, 171 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia  
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

This release was made outside the hours of operation of the ASX market announcements office.

Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is  
headquartered in Australia

## Investor Relations

### Australia and Asia

Tara Dines  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005  
email: [Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com)

Andrew Gunn  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 402 087 354  
email: [Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com)

### United Kingdom and South Africa

Jonathan Price  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7990 527 726  
email: [Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com)

### Americas

James Wear  
Tel: +1 212 310 1421 Mobile: +61 429 124 209  
email: [James.Wear@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:James.Wear@bhpbilliton.com)

Joseph Suarez  
Tel: +1 212 310 1422 Mobile: +1 646 400 3803  
email: [Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209  
BHP Billiton Finance Plc Registration number 6683534  
Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place  
London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom  
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

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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: February 1, 2016

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