

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
March 08, 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
March 8, 2016

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)
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VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

171 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE,

ENGLAND AND WALES
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

NEATHOUSE PLACE, LONDON,

VICTORIA 3000 AUSTRALIA
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

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8 March 2016

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 8 March 2016

Release Number 9/16

BUILDING ON PRODUCTIVITY LEADERSHIP AND A STRONG ASSET BASE

BHP Billiton is meeting the challenges of the global iron ore market through a focus on productivity and a relentless pursuit of the basics in its Western Australia Iron Ore (WAIO) operations.

In a key note address at this year's Global Iron Ore and Steel Forecast Conference, Asset President WAIO, Edgar Basto, spoke to the global market dynamics affecting one of Australia's most important exports.

Following a decade of strong growth driven by fixed assets investments, the Chinese economy is transitioning to a more consumer and services based model, with future growth likely to be inherently less steel intensive, he said.

The Chinese Government's steel industry restructure plans will take time to implement but it's important to note a reduction in excess capacity will mean improved sustainability of the industry and our customers are likely to benefit from any consolidation.

Mr Basto reiterated that the mining industry would need to continue to meet the challenges of a lower price environment through productivity.

Our structured approach to safely increasing the availability, utilisation and rate of our existing infrastructure will support continued productivity improvements at WAIO, he said.

We continue to increase our productivity in Port and Rail as we approach our targeted run rate of approximately 270 million tonnes per annum.

This has been achieved through a range of measures such as the optimisation of our pit-to-port scheduling strategy and alignment of maintenance shutdowns across our mines, port and track.

Mr Basto said BHP Billiton's new Operating Model would also support safe delivery of further productivity gains from WAIO's Tier 1 asset base in the Pilbara.

Our productivity drive has supported an EBITDA margin of over 50 per cent at WAIO despite the iron ore price halving since 2012, he said.

Through the new Operating Model we will deliver faster replication of leading practices and improved technologies across all of BHP Billiton's global operations as well as a major reduction in the costs of our functions.

Mr Basto reinforced the Company's commitment to Western Australia and its local communities.

WAIO remains a strong supporter of the communities in which we operate, having committed A\$300 million over the past five years to health, education and Indigenous development programs and community infrastructure.

We are proud of the contribution we have made, and continue to make in WA. Despite the challenging market conditions faced by the industry, BHP Billiton is unwavering in its commitment to the State and our local communities.

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

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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 8, 2016

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