

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
March 01, 2007

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 28, 2007

BHP BILLITON LIMITED

(ABN 49 004 028 077)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

180 LONSDALE 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, VICTORIA, 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 [x] No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

Issued by: BHP Billiton Plc

BHP Billiton Limited

To:
London Stock Exchange
Australian Stock Exchange

Cc:
New York Stock Exchange
JSE Limited
Swiss Stock Exchange
Deutsche Bank
UBS Zurich

Date: 28 February 2007

For Release: Immediately

BHP BILLITON PLC - TRANSACTION IN SHARES

BHP Billiton Limited announces that on 28 February 2007 it purchased 1,500,000 ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Plc at an average price of 1024.6555 pence per ordinary share.

Following the above purchase, BHP Billiton Plc holds 25,320,000 of its ordinary shares as treasury shares and BHP Billiton Limited holds 28,500,000 of the ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc, for a total of 53,820,000 shares. The total number of BHP Billiton Plc ordinary shares in issue (excluding shares held as treasury shares and shares held by BHP Billiton Limited) is 2,347,042,002.

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Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne
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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH United
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The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia

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: 28 February 2007

By: Karen Wood

Name: Karen Wood

Title: Group Company Secretary

mes New Roman" style="font-size:1.0pt;">

-3.1

%

-2.9

%

Kobrasco

1,139

803

1,133

41.1

%

-0.5

%

Hispanobras(1)

	1,061
	1,067
	755
	-29.2
%	-28.8
%	
Itabrasco	
	1,019
	983
	1,090
	11.0
%	
	7.0
%	
Samarco(2)	
	2,570
	2,717
	7

2,530

-6.9

%

-1.5

%

(1) Production attributable to Vale on a pro forma basis. In July 2012, we entered into a leasing contract for the Hispanobras pelletizing operation. As a consequence, its production is being consolidated 100% on a pro forma basis.

(2) Vale's attributable production capacity of 50%.

Pellet production reached 11.7 Mt, 11.7% below the same period of last year, reflecting the shutdown of the Tubarão I and II and São Luis pellet plants to accommodate the weaker global demand for blast furnace pellets. These three plants delivered 2.0 Mt in 1Q12.

Following the shift in demand composition, the share of direct reduction pellets in our production climbed to 42% from 22% in 1Q12.

Production volumes at the Tubarão plants ex-Tubarão I and II Nibrasco, Kobrasco, Hispanobras and Itabasco decreased to 5.167 Mt in 1Q13 from 5.476 Mt in 1Q12.

Fábrica and Vargem Grande expanded production by 5.1% and 28.0% against 1Q12, but this was not sufficient to offset the contraction in the other Brazilian plants.

As a result of a steady regional demand, the Oman I and II plants delivered 2.0 Mt of direct reduction pellets, rising 11.5% qoq and 38.9% yoy.

The attributable production from the three Samarco plants was 6.9% and 1.5% lower than 4Q12 and 1Q12, respectively, due to the scheduled maintenance stoppage in 1Q13.

Table of Contents

- Manganese ore and ferroalloys*

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
MANGANESE ORE	484	668	501	-24.9%	3.5%
Azul	379	523	381	-27.2%	0.4%
Urucum	67	92	98	5.9%	46.8%
Other mines	38	52	23	-56.7%	-40.9%
FERROALLOYS	106	59	32	-45.1%	-69.6%
Brazil	50	59	32	-45.1%	-34.9%
Dunkerque	30	0	0	n.m.	n.m.
Mo I Rana	27	0	0	n.m.	n.m.

Responding to the stronger demand, manganese ore production showed the best figure for a first quarter since 1Q08, at 501,000 t against 484,000 t in 1Q12.

Production from Urucum increased 5.9% over 4Q12 and 46.8% over 1Q12, the best performance since 1Q05, reflecting the efficiency gains brought by the operation of new equipment.

Output of the Carajás Azul manganese mine was 381,000 t, in line with 1Q12 and 27.2% lower than 4Q12. In addition to the seasonal effect of the rainy season, performance was impacted by the low level of ore recovery at the processing plant.

Morro da Mina output, which is part of other mines, was 56.7% lower than 4Q12, as a result of scheduled maintenance stoppage. The manganese ore from Morro da Mina is sourced to ferroalloys plants, which were affected by weaker demand.

Ferroalloy quarterly production was comprised of 15,200 t of ferrosilicon manganese alloys (FeSiMn), 11,200 t of high-carbon manganese alloys (FeMnHc) and 5,900 t of medium-carbon manganese alloys (FeMnMC).

In 1Q13, ferroalloy production was 45.1% lower than 4Q12 and 34.9% below the same period of last year reflecting production adjustments due to weaker demand for ferroalloys.

Table of Contents• *Coal*

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
METALLURGICAL COAL	1,127	1,471	1,373	-6.6%	21.9%
Moatize	501	648	417	-35.7%	-16.8%
Carborough Downs	325	373	554	48.4%	70.6%
Integra Coal	124	286	218	-23.8%	76.0%
Others	177	163	184	13.0%	4.1%
THERMAL COAL	375	480	379	-21.1%	1.0%
Moatize	193	319	256	-19.7%	32.6%
Integra Coal	81	71	24	-66.3%	-70.2%
Others	102	91	99	9.3%	-2.5%

Coal output in 1Q13, at 1.8 Mt, was the highest for a first quarter, mostly due to the performance of the Australian operations, particularly Carborough Downs (CD). Production of metallurgical coal was also a record for a first quarter and thermal coal output, at 379,000 t, was the best figure since 1Q09.

In 1Q13, coal production was 10.2% below the previous quarter, suffering the effects of the rainy season in Moatize and the longwall move in Integra Coal, in Australia.

Production at Moatize was 30.4% below the previous quarter due to the heavy rainfall in Mozambique.

The ramp-up of Moatize I is being constrained by the availability of railroad and port capacity, restrictions that will be lifted by the operation of the Nacala corridor, expected to come on stream in 2H14.

Production of metallurgical and thermal coal at Integra Coal was 218,000 t and 24,000 t, respectively, in 1Q13. Although increasing by 76% against 1Q12, metallurgical coal output, which involves underground mining, decreased when compared to 4Q12 due to the stoppage of longwall XI in response to poor geological conditions. In April, we concluded the installation of longwall XII and, as a consequence, better operational performance is expected for 2Q13. Thermal coal production, from open cut mining, decreased from the last quarter reflecting the rainy season in Australia.

Production of our other Australian mines was 283,000 t in 1Q13, rising 11.7% against 4Q12. During 1Q13, ROM inventory was used to feed the coal handling preparation plant (CHPP) to make a production increase during the rainy season.

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CD, which is a 100% metallurgical coal underground mining operation, increased its output by 48.4% in 1Q13, reaching a record volume of 554,000 t. This was the outcome of good operational performance and better geological conditions in the mining section after the longwall move was completed in early January.

Table of Contents

BASE METALS

- Nickel*

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
NICKEL	63	64	65	1.7%	3.0%
Sudbury	22	15	17	10.6%	-23.8%
Thompson	6	6	7	12.1%	19.8%
Voisey s Bay	14	18	19	0.8%	29.2%
Sorowako	12	23	17	-24.5%	41.3%
VNC	2	0	3	n.m.	27.2%
Onça Puma	4	0	0	n.m.	n.m.
Others	2	1	2	201.8%	9.8%

Total finished nickel production in 1Q13 was 65,000 t, 1.7% higher than 4Q12 and 3.0% above 1Q12, the best first quarter since 1Q09. Improved operational reliability in Canada and the ramp-up of VNC more than offset the effect of the production loss from Onça Puma and the maintenance shutdown of a furnace at Sorowako.

Finished nickel production using feed delivered by the Sudbury operations (mines and Clarabelle mill) was 10.6% higher than 4Q12, at 17,100 t, but 23.8% lower than 1Q12. In 1Q13 the Copper Cliff smelter processed more Voisey's Bay feed, while there was some inventory accumulation of Sudbury feed to support future finished nickel production.

There was a two-week corrective maintenance stoppage at the Clydach nickel refinery in January. Since February, Clydach has returned to normal operation.

The output at Thompson in 1Q13 was 7,200 t, an increase of 800 t against 4Q12 and 1,200 t from 1Q12.

Finished nickel production sourced from Voisey's Bay concentrates - which are processed through the Sudbury and Thompson smelters - were 18,700 t in 1Q13 with an increase of 29.2% in relation to 1Q12, showing the best performance ever for a first quarter. Both the Thompson and Copper Cliff smelters performed well and processed inventories of nickel concentrates produced by Voisey's Bay. It is worthwhile to note that during the winter season there are limitations to the maritime transportation of nickel concentrates out of Northern Labrador, where Voisey's Bay is located.

Production of nickel in matte from our Indonesian Sorowako operations totaled 18,500 t, 13.1% lower than the previous quarter due to a three-week furnace shutdown for maintenance in March. The furnace returned to normal operation, and production rates were stable by the end of the month. Given the production cycle, the losses of matte production caused by the maintenance stoppage will affect finished nickel output

in 2Q13.

Production of finished nickel sourced from Sorowako was 17,400 t, 24.5% lower than 4Q12. This was determined by furnace issues at our nickel refinery in Dalian. Additional matte has been redirected to our 25%-owned refinery in KNC, in South Korea, where it is processed into finished nickel under a tolling agreement.

The furnace problems at Dalian are going to require us to go through a shutdown and rebuild this year. However, the toll agreement with KNC,

Table of Contents

which has approximately the same capacity of Dalian, about 32,000 tpy, will avoid the impact on the output of finished nickel.

VNC is ramping up as planned, starting operations at the second of its three production lines and running at an annualized rate of 20,400 t in 1Q13, approximately 35% of the estimated maximum capacity.

Production of VNC in 1Q13 comprised 2,200 t of NHC and 2,900 of NiO.

In addition to the 2,200 t of nickel contained in NHC, VNC contributed with 700 t to the production of finished nickel delivered by the Asian refineries sourced from VNC's NiO. The processing of a major part of NiO produced by VNC is still to be processed into finished nickel by the Asian refineries. Therefore, it was not accounted for in our production numbers, which refer only to finished nickel and nickel contained in products such as NHC not processed into finished nickel and sold directly to clients.

Onça Puma remains shut down, and it is expected to resume operation in 4Q13 with one furnace only.

• **Copper**

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
COPPER	73	81	90	10.5%	22.8%
Sossego	25	28	28	-0.3%	10.3%
Salobo	0	8	11	39.8%	n.m.
Sudbury	24	19	26	37.7%	9.7%
Thompson	1	0	0	-6.1%	-63.7%
Voisey's Bay	11	14	11	-19.2%	-3.5%
Tres Valles	4	4	4	-1.7%	4.1%
Lubambe(1)	0	1	2	43.6%	n.m.
Others	8	7	8	6.8%	-2.1%

(1) Vale's attributable production capacity of 40%.

In 1Q13, copper production was 89,500 t, a record mark, due to the ramp up of Salobo I and Lubambe and the operational performance of Sudbury.

Despite the rainy season in Brazil, production of copper in concentrates at the Sossego mine at Carajás totaled 27,700 t, the best first quarter since 1Q09.

Salobo I produced 11,000 t of copper in concentrates and 18,700 troy ounces (oz) of gold as a by-product.

Production of copper, a co-product from our Canadian nickel operations, was 37,400 t, rising 13.6% on a quarter-on-quarter basis. This reflected the operational performance of the Clarabelle mill and the Copper Cliff smelter at Sudbury. Sudbury production had the best first quarter of the last four years.

Voisey's Bay production was 11,000 t, 2,600 t lower than 4Q12, due primarily to feed availability as a result of a crusher failure and a severe snow-storm that delayed haulage from the mine.

Table of Contents

Output at Tres Valles, in Chile, was 3,700 t of copper cathodes in 1Q13, in line with the previous quarter and 4.1% higher year-on-year, as a result of the ramp-up to nominal capacity.

Lubambe, in Zambia, is also ramping up, delivering 4,600 t of copper in concentrates on a 100% basis (attributable production of 1,800 t). Lubambe has a nominal capacity of 45,000 t per year.

- Nickel and copper by-products*

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
COBALT (metric tons)	592	579	993	71.4%	67.7%
Sudbury	206	105	175	67.5%	-14.9%
Thompson	22	22	14	-38.7%	-37.5%
Voisey s Bay	310	343	432	25.9%	39.3%
VNC	40	98	372	279.2%	830.1%
Others	14	11	0	n.m.	n.m.
PLATINUM (000 oz troy)	38	22	34	58.7%	-10.0%
Sudbury	38	22	34	58.7%	-10.0%
PALLADIUM (000 oz troy)	59	55	89	62.1%	50.3%
Sudbury	59	55	89	62.1%	50.3%
GOLD (000 oz troy)	35	47	58	22.2%	65.8%
Sudbury	19	14	22	62.1%	15.3%
Sossego	16	20	17	-15.2%	8.9%
Salobo	0	13	19	38.9%	n.m.
SILVER (000 oz troy)	595	390	425	8.9%	-28.6%
Sudbury	595	390	425	8.9%	-28.6%

Output of cobalt reached the historical mark of 993 t, 71.4% above 4Q12, mainly reflecting the higher production from VNC, which totaled 372 t, 279% higher than 4Q12.

Platinum output was 34,000 oz and palladium was 89,000 oz, 58.7%, and 62.1% above 4Q12, respectively.

Gold production was 58,000 oz in 1Q13, 22.2% higher than 4Q12. Production at Salobo more than offset the lower output from Sossego.

Table of Contents

FERTILIZER NUTRIENTS

• *Potash*

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
POTASH	118	161	120	-25.5%	1.7%
Taquari-Vassouras	118	161	120	-25.5%	1.7%

• *Phosphates*

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
PHOSPHATE ROCK	1,826	2,060	1,991	-3.4%	9.1%
Brazil	1,112	1,188	1,137	-4.3%	2.2%
Bayóvar	714	872	855	-2.0%	19.7%
MAP(1)	311	307	288	-6.1%	-7.5%
TSP(2)	241	247	251	1.4%	4.2%
SSP(3)	484	587	554	-5.5%	14.5%
DCP(4)	144	113	121	7.1%	-16.1%

(1) Monoammonium phosphate

(2) Triple superphosphate

(3) Single superphosphate

(4) Dicalcium phosphate

Our sales are primarily destined for the Brazilian market, where the demand for nutrients is more concentrated in the second half of the year, so our production tends to be weaker in the first half of the year.

Production of potash was 120,000 t in 1Q13, decreasing 25.5% quarter-over-quarter. The output reduction was caused by geological conditions at the mine and by a non-scheduled maintenance stoppage.

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In 1Q13, total production of phosphate rock, which is used to feed the production of phosphate nutrients, decreased by 3.4% over last quarter, but was 9.1% higher than 1Q12, a record for a first quarter, due to the record production of Bayóvar.

Output from our Brazilian operations was slightly below 4Q12 due to the rainy season in Brazil.

The production of MAP (monoammonium phosphate) totaled 288,000 t in 1Q13, 6.1% and 7.5% below quarter-over-quarter and year-over-year levels, respectively, due to a non-scheduled stoppage for maintenance.

TSP (triple superphosphate) production reached 251,000 t, a record high in 1Q13, reflecting production adjustments due to stronger demand.

In 1Q13, production of SSP (single superphosphate) was 5.5% lower than 4Q12, as a result of a scheduled maintenance stoppage. Output was 14.5% higher than the same period last year showing a recovery after the maintenance stoppage, which occurred during 1Q12.

DCP (dicalcium phosphate) production was 16.1% below 1Q12, reflecting production adjustments due to weaker demand.

Table of Contents

- Nitrogen*

000 metric tons	1Q12	4Q12	1Q13	% Change 1Q13/4Q12	% Change 1Q13/1Q12
AMMONIA	132	143	141	-1.3%	7.0%
UREA	107	143	128	-10.4%	19.3%
NITRIC ACID	118	117	115	-2.2%	-3.0%
AMMONIUM NITRATE	119	120	120	0.3%	1.3%

In 1Q13, ammonia production was slightly below last quarter and 7.0% higher than the same period of last year after recovery from a scheduled stoppage for maintenance in 1Q12.

The output of urea was 10.4% lower than the previous quarter due to a non-scheduled corrective maintenance stoppage in 1Q12.

In 1Q13, output of nitric acid was 2.2% below the previous quarter while the output of ammonium nitrate was slightly higher on a quarter-on-quarter basis.

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This press release may include statements that present Vale's expectations about future events or results. All statements, when based upon expectations about the future and not on historical facts, involve various risks and uncertainties. Vale cannot guarantee that such statements will prove correct. These risks and uncertainties include factors related to the following: (a) the countries where we operate, especially Brazil and

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Canada; (b) the global economy; (c) the capital markets; (d) the mining and metals prices and their dependence on global industrial production, which is cyclical by nature; and (e) global competition in the markets in which Vale operates. To obtain further information on factors that may lead to results different from those forecast by Vale, please consult the reports Vale files with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Brazilian Comissão de Valores Mobiliários (CVM), the French Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, and in particular the factors discussed under [Forward-Looking Statements](#) and [Risk Factors](#) in Vale's annual report on Form 20-F.

Table of Contents

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.

Vale S.A.
(Registrant)

Date: April 17, 2013

By:

/s/ Roberto Castello Branco
Roberto Castello Branco
Director of Investor Relations
