

BHP BILLITON PLC
Form 6-K
February 26, 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 26, 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 26 February 2016

Release Number 6/16

MARKET SPECULATION - SAMARCO

As announced on 30 November 2015, the Federal Attorney General, the States of Espirito Santo, Minas Gerais and other public authorities have commenced a public civil claim, seeking the establishment of a fund for clean-up costs and damages relating to the Samarco dam failure. As referred to in the BHP Billiton results for the half year ended 31 December 2015, BHP Billiton Brasil, Samarco and Vale S.A. are in negotiations with the Brazilian Government in relation to that claim.

There has been speculation in the press that a settlement has been reached with the Brazilian authorities concerning the claim. Significant progress has been made with the negotiations, and we are hopeful that an agreement will be reached. If and when that happens, an announcement will be made at that time.

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

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Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is

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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: February 26, 2016

By: /s/ Margaret Taylor
Name: Margaret Taylor
Title: Company Secretary