

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
April 28, 2006

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

April

26, 2006

BHP Billiton

Limited

..... (Translation of registrant's name into English) 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia
.....

(Address of principal executive office)

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

26 April 2006
Number 08/06

BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

BHP Billiton today released its production report for the quarter ended 31 March 2006. Throughout this report, unless otherwise stated, production volumes refer to BHP Billiton share.

- Record year to date production of nickel, copper, natural gas and aluminium was achieved, up 122%, 25%, 6% and 1% respectively.
- Record year to date production was achieved at Hillside (South Africa), Escondida (Chile) and Cerrejon Coal (Colombia).
- Quarterly production records were achieved at Cerrejon Coal, and for oil at Angostura (Trinidad & Tobago) and gas at Zamzama (Pakistan).
- Petroleum, iron ore and nickel operations based in Western Australia were disrupted by cyclone activity and continuing wet weather. Ingwe (South Africa) was also impacted by higher than average rainfall.

	MAR	MAR	MAR YTD	MAR Q06	MAR Q06
2006	2006	vs	vs	vs	
PETROLEUM	YTD	QTR	MAR YTD	MAR Q05	DEC Q05
Crude Oil & Condensate ('000 bbl)	34,320	10,886	-7%	-12%	-3%
Natural Gas (bcf)	261.85	77.85	6%	-5%	-10%
Total Petroleum Products (million boe)	85.32	26.01	-1%	-9%	-7%

Total Petroleum Products

- Total production for the year to date March 2006 of 85.3 million barrels of oil equivalent was in line with the nine months to March 2005.

March 2006 quarterly production was lower than the comparative periods primarily as a result of lost production from the Typhoon/Boris facility (USA) due to hurricane damage sustained in the September 2005 quarter, natural field decline and lower gas demand at Bass Strait (Australia), well and weather related downtime in North West Shelf and Griffin (both Australia) and the sale of our interest in Laminaria (Australia) in January 2005. This was partly offset by increased production from Angostura (Trinidad & Tobago) and Mad Dog (USA), all commissioned in January 2005, and ROD (Algeria), commissioned in October 2004.

Crude Oil and Condensate - March 2006 year to date and quarterly production was lower than the March 2005 comparative periods. Lost production from the Typhoon/Boris facility, well and weather related downtime at North West Shelf and Griffin, natural field decline at Bass Strait, and the sale of Laminaria all had a negative impact on production. This was partially offset by ramp up of production at ROD, Mad Dog and Angostura.

Natural Gas

- Record production for the nine months to March 2006 was primarily due to the commissioning of Minerva in January 2005.

March 2006 quarterly production was lower than the March 2005 quarter reflecting lower demand for Bass Strait and Minerva gas and lost production from the Typhoon/Boris facility.

Production for the March 2006 quarter was lower than the December 2005 quarter as a result of weather related downtime at North West Shelf and equipment downtime at Liverpool Bay (UK), in addition to lower demand for Bass Strait and Minerva gas.



MAR

MAR

MAR YTD 06

MAR Q06

MAR Q06

2006

2006

vs

vs

vs

ALUMINIUM

YTD

QTR

MAR YTD 05

MAR Q05

DEC Q05

Alumina ('000 tonnes)

3,115

1,075

0%

-2%

6%

Aluminium ('000 tonnes)

1,018

340

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1%

2%

-1%

Alumina

- Production on a year to date basis was in line with the comparative period. March 2006 quarterly production increased compared to the December 2005 quarter primarily as a result of Worsley recovering from gas supply curtailments in the previous quarter.

Aluminium

- Production for the nine months and quarter ended March 2006 was in line with all comparative periods.



MAR

MAR

MAR YTD 06

MAR Q06

MAR Q06

2006

2006

vs

vs

vs

BASE METALS

YTD

QTR

MAR YTD 05

MAR Q05

DEC Q05

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Copper ('000 tonnes)

956.4

319.1

25%

28%

-3%

Silver ('000 ounces)

36,883

11,655

-3%

-17%

-16%

Lead (tonnes)

210,814

68,754

-3%

-15%

-11%

Zinc (tonnes)

81,494

28,419

6%

-12%

19%

Uranium Oxide Concentrate (tonnes)

3,071

913

n/a

n/a

-15%

Copper

- Production for the nine months ended March 2006 was a record 956,400 tonnes, 25% higher than the March 2005 comparative period, reflecting year to date record performance at Escondida (Chile) and inclusion of a full nine months of production from Olympic Dam (Australia).

March 2006 quarterly production was marginally lower than the December 2005 quarter as a result of lower head grade and throughput at Olympic Dam and Escondida, partially offset by Cerro Colorado (Chile) operating at full capacity for the quarter having fully recovered from the earthquake in June 2005.

Silver

- Production was lower on a year to date basis primarily as a result of lower head grade of ore mined at Cannington (Australia) in the nine months to March 2006. March 2006 quarterly production was lower than the previous period as a result of lower head grade and increased planned maintenance activity at Cannington during the period.

Lead

- Year to date production to March 2006 decreased against all comparative periods as a result of lower head grade and increased planned maintenance activity at Cannington during the March 2006 quarter.

Zinc

- Production increased against the March 2005 year to date and December 2005 comparative periods due to higher grade at Cannington. This was partially offset by a lower proportion of zinc contained ore processed at Antamina over recent quarters resulting in a decline against the March 2005 quarter.

Uranium Oxide Concentrate

- Production in the March 2006 quarter was lower than the December 2005 quarter as a result of lower grade and throughput at Olympic Dam.



MAR

MAR

MAR YTD 06

MAR Q06

MAR Q06

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2006

2006

vs

vs

vs

CARBON STEEL MATERIALS

YTD

QTR

MAR YTD 05

MAR Q05

DEC Q05

Iron ore ('000 tonnes)

70,500

22,499

0%

-5%

-9%

Metallurgical Coal ('000 tonnes)

26,419

8,460

-5%

-5%

-6%

Manganese Ores ('000 tonnes)

3,891

1,226

-4%

-5%

-4%

Manganese Alloys ('000 tonnes)

477

173

-20%

-12%

5%

Iron Ore

- March 2006 year to date production was in line with the comparative period.

Production decreased in the March 2006 quarter versus the March 2005 and December 2005 quarters following disruptions at Western Australian Iron Ore operations (Australia) due to cyclone activity, higher than usual rainfall in the Pilbara and maintenance work at Area C.

Metallurgical Coal

- March 2006 year to date and quarterly production was lower than the March 2005 comparatives. This primarily reflects reduced production at Queensland Coal (Australia) due to the depletion of reserves at Riverside and longer than scheduled dragline outages at South Walker Creek and Saraji. This was partially offset by increased production at Goonyella and the continued ramp up of Dendrobium and Broadmeadow (all Australia), commissioned in April 2005 and August 2005 respectively.

Production for the March 2006 quarter was lower than the December 2005 quarter as a result of reduced production at Queensland Coal due to unplanned downtime at Broadmeadow, an extended longwall change at the Crinum mine and scheduled downtime at Norwich Park.

Shiploader 1 at Hay Point Coal Terminal became fully operational on 13 April following a fifteen week shutdown for repairs.

Manganese ore

- Production for the March 2006 year to date and quarter was lower than all comparative periods as a result of lower market demand.

Manganese alloys

- March 2006 year to date and quarterly production decreased compared to the March 2005 comparative periods primarily reflecting lower market demand.

March 2006 quarterly production was higher than the December 2005 quarter as full operational stability was restored following scheduled maintenance at Metalloys (South Africa) in the September 2005 quarter.

	MAR
	MAR
	MAR YTD 06
	MAR Q06
	MAR Q06
	2006
	2006
	vs
	vs
	vs

DIAMONDS & SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

	YTD
	QTR
	MAR YTD 05
	MAR Q05
	DEC Q05

Diamonds ('000 carats)

1,978
512
-26%
-36%
-17%

Fertiliser ('000 tonnes)

720.0
222.5
n/a

n/a

-12%

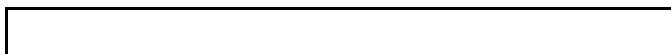
Diamonds

- Carat production decreased in the nine months to March 2006 reflecting the processing of lower grade ore at Ekati (Canada).

March 2006 quarterly production was lower than the December 2005 quarter due to the impact of planned changes to the mix of ore sources being processed.

Fertiliser

- March 2006 quarterly production was lower than the December 2005 quarter as a result of unplanned maintenance.



MAR

MAR

MAR YTD 06

MAR Q06

MAR Q06

2006

2006

vs

vs

vs

ENERGY COAL

YTD

QTR

MAR YTD 05

MAR Q05

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DEC Q05

Energy Coal ('000 tonnes)

63,969

18,672

-1%

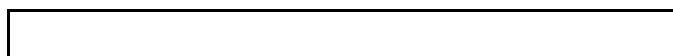
-7%

-12%

Energy Coal

- Production for the year to date March 2006 was in line with the nine months ended March 2005.

Production for the March 2006 quarter was lower than the comparative periods mainly as a result of significantly higher than average rainfall at Ingwe (South Africa) and a planned outage for a longwall move at San Juan Coal (USA).



MAR

MAR

MAR YTD 06

MAR Q06

MAR Q06

2006

2006

vs

vs

vs

STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS

YTD

QTR

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MAR YTD 05

MAR Q05

DEC Q05

Nickel ('000 tonnes)

133.3

40.2

122%

93%

-18%

Nickel

- Record production for the year to date March 2006 primarily reflects inclusion of a full nine months of production from Nickel West (Australia).

Production for the March 2006 quarter was lower than the December 2005 quarter due to disruption of the Nickel West operations primarily as a result of cyclone activity and continued wet weather. This was partly offset by increased production at Yabulu (Australia) due to fewer expansion related activities.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

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BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION SUMMARY										
		QUARTER ENDED			YEAR TO DATE			% CHANGE		
								MAR YTD 06	MAR Q06	MAR Q06
		MAR	DEC	MAR		MAR	MAR	vs	vs	vs
		2005	2005	2006		2006	2005	MAR YTD 05	MAR Q05	DEC Q05
PETROLEUM										
Crude oil & condensate	('000 bbl)	12,345	11,200	10,886		34,320	36,901	-7%	-12%	-3%
Natural gas	(bcf)	82.35	86.35	77.85		261.85	246.89	6%	-5%	-10%
LPG	('000 tonnes)	199.29	190.59	175.26		600.09	646.39	-7%	-12%	-8%
Ethane	('000 tonnes)	23.61	24.72	22.25		74.99	78.56	-5%	-6%	-10%
Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	28.49	27.93	26.01		85.32	85.90	-1%	-9%	-7%
ALUMINIUM										
Alumina	('000 tonnes)	1,092	1,012	1,075		3,115	3,128	0%	-2%	6%
Aluminium	('000 tonnes)	332	344	340		1,018	1,009	1%	2%	-1%
BASE METALS										
Copper	('000 tonnes)	249.6	328.4	319.1		956.4	764.2	25%	28%	-3%
Lead	(tonnes)	80,899	77,187	68,754		210,814	217,318	-3%	-15%	-11%
Zinc	(tonnes)	32,388	23,928	28,419		81,494	77,156	6%	-12%	19%
Gold	(ounces)	32,152	54,700	52,095		160,461	93,531	72%	62%	-5%
Silver	('000 ounces)	14,044	13,866	11,655		36,883	38,166	-3%	-17%	-16%
Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	-	1,070	913		3,071	-	-	-	-15%
Molybdenum	(tonnes)	431	772	632		1,977	1,314	50%	47%	-18%

CARBON STEEL MATERIALS									
Iron ore	('000 tonnes)	23,762	24,610	22,499	70,500	70,728	0%	-5%	-9%
Metallurgical coal	('000 tonnes)	8,883	8,973	8,460	26,419	27,733	-5%	-5%	-6%
Manganese ores	('000 tonnes)	1,297	1,278	1,226	3,891	4,037	-4%	-5%	-4%
Manganese alloys	('000 tonnes)	197	165	173	477	599	-20%	-12%	5%
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS									
Diamonds	('000 carats)	802	614	512	1,978	2,660	-26%	-36%	-17%
Fertiliser	('000 tonnes)	-	252.6	222.5	720.0	-	-	-	-12%
ENERGY COAL									
Energy coal	('000 tonnes)	20,079	21,287	18,672	63,969	64,713	-1%	-7%	-12%
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS									
Nickel	('000 tonnes)	20.8	49.0	40.2	133.3	60.1	122%	93%	-18%
Ferrochrome	('000 tonnes)	240	-	-	-	776	-	-	-
Throughout this report figures in italics indicate that this figure has been adjusted since it was previously reported.									

BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION								YEAR TO DATE	
		BHP Billiton	MARCH	JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	MAR	MAR
		Interest	2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2006	2005
PETROLEUM									
Production									

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	Crude oil & condensate	(000 bbl)	12,345	13,939	12,234	11,200	10,886	34,320	36,901
	Natural gas	(bcf)	82.35	98.79	97.65	86.35	77.85	261.85	246.89
	LPG	('000 tonnes)	199.29	213.71	234.24	190.59	175.26	600.09	646.39
	Ethane	('000 tonnes)	23.61	22.97	28.02	24.72	22.25	74.99	78.56
	Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	28.49	33.13	31.38	27.93	26.01	85.32	85.90
ALUMINIUM									
ALUMINA									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Worsley	86%	746	718	689	663	717	2,069	2,095
	Suriname	45%	220	209	227	219	228	674	665
	Alumar	36%	126	127	112	130	130	372	368
	Total		1,092	1,054	1,028	1,012	1,075	3,115	3,128
ALUMINIUM									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Hillside	100%	169	172	172	177	174	523	513
	Bayside	100%	45	29	41	46	46	133	137
	Alumar	46.3%	43	44	45	45	44	134	132
	Valesul	45.5%	10	11	11	10	11	32	32
	Mozal	47%	65	65	65	66	65	196	195
	Total		332	321	334	344	340	1,018	1,009
BASE METALS (a)									
COPPER									
Payable metal in concentrate ('000 tonnes)									
	Escondida	57.5%	135.4	154.0	168.6	169.0	168.2	505.8	424.2
	Antamina	33.8%	29.9	29.9	27.9	34.3	32.9	95.1	93.2
	Tintaya (b)	100%	20.7	15.3	17.3	18.1	16.2	51.6	57.4
	Total		186.0	199.2	213.8	221.4	217.3	652.5	574.8
Cathode ('000 tonnes)									
	Escondida	57.5%	21.8	21.4	19.6	20.0	15.4	55.0	65.9
	Cerro Colorado (c)	100%	29.8	24.6	14.5	21.5	28.1	64.1	88.5
	Tintaya (b)	100%	9.6	6.4	9.7	9.9	9.1	28.7	28.0

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	Pinto Valley	100%	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	6.4	7.0
	Olympic Dam (d)	100%	-	16.1	49.1	53.5	47.1	149.7	