

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
August 19, 2011

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

August 18, 2011

<u>Commission File Number</u>	<u>Translation of registrant's name into English; Address of principal executive offices</u>
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	BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077) 180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3000 AUSTRALIA
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-	BHP Billiton Plc (REG. NO. 3196209) NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
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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

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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): 82-

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time:
IMMEDIATE

Date:
18 August 2011

Number:
24/11

EXPANSION OF CERREJON COAL

BHP Billiton today announced approval of a US\$437 million (BHP Billiton share) investment to expand the Cerrejon Coal mine in La Guajira, Colombia.

BHP Billiton's investment represents one third of the US\$1,311 million expansion to be undertaken by Cerrejon Coal, with joint venture partners Anglo American and Xstrata contributing equal investment in the project.

The expansion, known as the P40 Project, will enable Cerrejon Coal's saleable thermal coal production to increase by 8 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to approximately 40mtpa.

Construction will commence in the 2011 calendar year with completion expected in the 2013 calendar year. Ramp up to expanded capacity of 40mtpa is expected by the end of the 2015 calendar year.

The expansion project will see BHP Billiton's estimated share of production and sales from this long life, tier 1 asset increase from 10.7mtpa to 13.3mtpa.

BHP Billiton Energy Coal President, Jimmy Wilson, said: "Today's announcement highlights our commitment to invest in growth throughout the cycle and to continue to produce at maximum volumes to take advantage of the strong demand for energy coal."

The project scope includes a second berth and dual quadrant shiploader at Cerrejon's 100 percent owned and operated Puerto Bolivar, along with necessary mine, rail and associated supply chain infrastructure.

BHP Billiton owns 33.3 percent of Cerrejon Coal in equal portion with joint venture partners Anglo American and Xstrata.

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

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia

Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales

Registered Office: Neathouse Place

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Members of the BHP Billiton Group which 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.

Date : August 18, 2011

BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077) BHP Billiton
Plc (REG. No. 3196209)

By: /s/ Jane McAloon
Name: Jane McAloon
Title: Group Company Secretary