

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
January 24, 2008

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

January 23, 2008

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):

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

23 January 2008
Number 02/08

BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

Production was significantly up in 13 commodities, with record or equal record production achieved in seven major commodities during the half year ended December 2007. These records were delivered in 12 assets across six of our nine Customer Sector Groups. This performance reinforces our strong track record of project delivery. Our deep inventory of expansion projects underpins further growth.

We have a broad exposure to the steel making sector through our iron ore, manganese and metallurgical coal operations and achieved record shipments in all of these commodities; delivering an eighth consecutive half year production record at Western Australia Iron Ore. This was achieved at a time when current demand and the outlook remain very strong and prices for these commodities reached record levels.

The newly commissioned petroleum projects contributed to a record performance. Continuing ramp up of production from these projects and future expansions will enhance our net long energy position at a time of historically high energy prices.

We continued to focus on developing and delivering world class projects. First product was delivered from seven major projects across five commodities during the quarter. This, along with four major projects scheduled to commission in the next six months will significantly increase our production. A further four major projects were sanctioned recently, including the third port in Newcastle, which will underpin our Australian East Coast expansion plans in Energy Coal.

- **Record half year production from the total petroleum business, including record natural gas. Alumina, copper concentrate, iron ore, manganese ore and alloy also set records, as well as equal record production for aluminium. All supported by strong market conditions.**
- **Significant increase in half year production of copper cathode, uranium, lead, zinc, diamonds and metallurgical coal.**

- Half year production records achieved at Worsley, Western Australia Iron Ore, GEMCO, Illawarra Coal, and Hunter Valley Coal (all Australia), Zamzama (Pakistan), Paranam (Suriname), Samarco (Brazil), Hillside and Samancor (both South Africa), and Cerrejon Coal (Colombia) operations. Mozal (Mozambique) equalled its previous record production.
- Record half year shipments across the entire carbon steel materials commodity suite (iron ore up six percent, manganese up six percent and metallurgical coal up 13 percent) driven by continuing strong customer demand.
- Record half year total material mined and ore hoisting achieved at Olympic Dam (Australia).

	DEC	DEC	DEC H 07	DEC Q07	DEC Q07
	2007	2007	vs	vs	vs
PETROLEUM	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Crude Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids ('000 bbl) (a)	29,395	15,002	2%	9%	4%
Natural Gas (bcf) (a)	186.89	91.21	9%	11%	-5%
Total Petroleum Products (million boe) (a)	60.54	30.20	5%	10%	0%

Total Petroleum Production -

Total production for the half year and quarter was higher than all comparative periods reflecting the start up of Atlantis and Genghis Khan (both USA), and Stybarrow (Australia) in the December 2007 quarter. A steady increase in the total production profile is expected in the second half of the 2008 financial year due to the contribution of high margin output from these projects, all located in fiscally stable regimes.

In less than two months of operation, Stybarrow has already achieved production levels at nameplate capacity and has offloaded a total of 2.5 million barrels of oil (100% basis).

Crude Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids -

Production was higher than all comparative periods due to the start up of new projects and continued success in infill and development drilling programs. This, combined with continued strong facility uptime, completely offset the effect of natural field decline.

Natural Gas -

Record half year production was achieved due to strong performance at Bass Strait and North West Shelf (both Australia) and the remainder of the global portfolio. The improved facility uptime across all operations also allowed us to capture the benefit of stronger demand for gas in Australia and Pakistan.

	DEC	DEC	DEC H 07	DEC Q07	DEC Q07
	2007	2007	vs	vs	vs
ALUMINIUM	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Alumina ('000 tonnes)	2,310	1,157	4%	0%	0%
Aluminium ('000 tonnes)	675	338	0%	0%	0%

Alumina -

All time records in production and sales were achieved for the December 2007 half year reflecting continued strong performance from all operations. Worsley and Paranam achieved a second consecutive record half year of production.

Aluminium

- Production equalled both the half year and quarterly records achieved in the December 2006 half year and quarter. Despite the impact of load shedding (within agreed contractual limits), Hillside achieved a third consecutive quarterly record and Mozal equalled its previous record performance.

	DEC	DEC	DEC H 07	DEC Q07	DEC Q07
	2007	2007	vs	vs	vs
BASE METALS	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Copper ('000 tonnes)	655.9	348.1	19%	16%	13%
Lead (tonnes)	132,065	70,544	53%	92%	15%
Zinc (tonnes)	65,066	27,807	49%	41%	-25%
Silver ('000 ounces)	23,029	11,905	65%	81%	7%
Uranium Oxide Concentrate (Uranium) (tonnes)	2,124	1,191	32%	45%	28%

Copper -

Half year production increased significantly with production of copper concentrate achieving an all time record. The continued ramp up of Escondida Sulphide Leach and Spence (both Chile) and the recently commissioned Pinto Valley (USA) all contributed to the increased production. In aggregate, these projects

contributed 96,100 tonnes during the half year ended December 2007. This increase was achieved despite two earthquakes in Chile that reduced output by approximately 9,100 tonnes, and lower production from Antamina (Peru) and Olympic Dam. Production at Antamina was impacted by unplanned interruptions at the SAG mill.

Olympic Dam achieved an all time high in total material mined and ore hoisted during the December 2007 half year. The build up of underground stock piles is progressing according to the development program in place to allow for increased ore hoisting. However, Olympic Dam's production was impacted by unplanned smelter interruptions and lower grades.

At 31 December 2007 the Group had 323,469 tonnes of outstanding copper sales that were revalued at a weighted average price of US\$6,662 per tonne. The final price of these sales will be determined in 2008. In addition, 346,610 tonnes of copper sales were subject to a finalisation adjustment from the prior period. The finalisation adjustment and provisional pricing impact as at 31 December 2007 will decrease earnings(b) by US\$240 million for the period.

Lead -

Cannington's production in the December 2007 quarter was the highest since the record March 2005 quarter. Performance continues to improve following the completion of the Cannington (Australia) rehabilitation project.

Zinc -

Production for the half year was significantly higher due to higher grade and an increased proportion of zinc containing ore being processed at Antamina. The completion of the Cannington rehabilitation project also had a positive impact.

Silver -

Production was significantly higher than the December 2006 half year and quarter mainly due to the successful completion of the Cannington rehabilitation project. Half year production records were achieved at Escondida and Antamina.

Uranium -

Production was the highest since the December 2004 quarter and half year due to ongoing progress at improving recovery and leach circuit performance at Olympic Dam.

Third party uranium was purchased from the spot market to meet contractual requirements. This will decrease earnings(b) by US\$94 million for the half year ended December 2007.

	DEC 2007	DEC 2007	DEC H 07 vs	DEC Q07 vs	DEC Q07 vs
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Diamonds ('000 carats)	1,865	843	31%	-10%	-18%

Diamonds -

As Ekati (Canada) transitions from open pit mining to underground mining the mix of ore processed will change from time to time. Production for the half year increased significantly compared to the December 2006 half year due to higher recoveries and grade. Although production increased it included a higher proportion of lower value carats.

Carat production decreased compared to the December 2006 and September 2007 quarters due to lower recoveries and grade.

	DEC	DEC	DEC H 07	DEC Q07	DEC Q07
	2007	2007	vs	vs	vs
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Nickel ('000 tonnes)	82.3	43.7	-11%	-9%	13%

Nickel -

Production in the half year ended December 2007 was impacted by scheduled shutdowns at the Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter (Australia), Yabulu (Australia) and Cerro Matoso (Colombia). This was partially offset by higher production from the Kwinana Nickel Refinery (Australia) which performed at near record levels. The Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation (Australia) produced more than 5,000 tonnes of mixed nickel-cobalt hydroxide product in the December 2007 quarter.

The start up of operations at Ravensthorpe and Line 2 at Yabulu adversely impacted earnings(b) by US\$132 million for the half year ended December 2007.

	DEC	DEC	DEC H 07	DEC Q07	DEC Q07
	2007	2007	vs	vs	vs
IRON ORE	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Iron ore ('000 tonnes) (c)	53,613	27,746	8%	9%	7%

Iron Ore -

Record production and sales were achieved for the half year and quarter ended December 2007. Western Australia Iron Ore and Samarco continued to perform strongly and set new half year and quarterly production records. Successful delivery of ongoing expansion projects led to an eighth consecutive half year production record at our Western Australia Iron Ore operations.

	DEC	DEC	DEC H 07	DEC Q07	DEC Q07
	2007	2007	vs	vs	vs
MANGANESE	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Manganese Ore ('000 tonnes)	3,058	1,613	1%	5%	12%

Manganese Alloy ('000 tonnes)	393	209	12%	9%	14%
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Manganese Ore -

Record half year and quarterly production achieved due to record or near record performance from all operations.

Manganese Alloy -

Production for the half year and quarter ended December 2007 were all time records. Samancor and TEMCO (Australia) delivered strong production, with Samancor achieving a quarterly record.

	DEC 2007	DEC 2007	DEC H 07 vs	DEC Q07 vs	DEC Q07 vs
METALLURGICAL COAL	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Metallurgical Coal ('000 tonnes)	19,215	9,643	6%	8%	1%

Metallurgical Coal -

Production for the half year and quarter ended December 2007 was higher than all comparative periods. This was achieved despite the impact of planned and unplanned interruptions and unseasonal wet weather in Queensland Coal (Australia). Illawarra Coal achieved a half year production record, reflecting strong performance from West Cliff, Appin and Dendrobium mines (all Australia). Strong production at Peak Downs and South Walker Creek (both Australia) and the continued ramp up of Poitrel (Australia) also contributed to the higher production.

Responding to continuing strong customer demand, both Illawarra Coal and Queensland Coal achieved record half year shipments. Our Hay Point Coal terminal (Australia) achieved a half year record throughput despite weather related closure in the last week of December 2007. This mitigated the impact of infrastructure constraints at third party facilities.

	DEC 2007	DEC 2007	DEC H 07 vs	DEC Q07 vs	DEC Q07 vs
ENERGY COAL	HALF	QTR	DEC H 06	DEC Q06	SEPT Q07
Energy Coal ('000 tonnes) (d)	40,232	20,609	-2%	-1%	5%

Energy Coal -

Production(e) was in line with all the comparative periods.

New Mexico Coal (USA) production improved following maintenance activities at Navajo (USA) and poor geological conditions at the longwall operation at San Juan (USA) experienced in the September 2007 quarter. In addition,

Hunter Valley Coal and Cerrejon Coal continued to set new production records.

Third party infrastructure constraints on the east coast of Australia will continue to impact Hunter Valley Coal's export sales.

(a) Excluding Moranbah Coal Bed Methane (sold September 2006 quarter) and Typhoon / Boris (sold December 2006 quarter).

(b) Earnings before interest and tax.

(c) Excluding Goldsworthy operations which were suspended mid calendar year 2006.

(d) Excluding Koornfontein operation which was sold effective 1 July 2007.

(e) Including 5.8 million tonnes of production from our South African Optimum operation (2.1 million tonnes export and 3.7 million tonnes domestic). Earnings on these tonnes will be excluded as the entitlement to those earnings vested with the intended purchaser effective from 1 July 2007.

Throughout this report, unless otherwise stated, production volumes refer to BHP Billiton share and exclude suspended and sold operations.

This report together with the Exploration and Development Report represent the Interim Management Statement for the purposes of the UK Listing Authority's Disclosure and Transparency Rules. There have been no significant changes in the financial position of the Group in the half year ended 31 December 2007.

BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION SUMMARY - CONTINUING OPERATIONS												
			QUARTER ENDED			HALF YEAR ENDED			% CHANGE			
			DEC	SEPT	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	H 07	Q07	Q07	
									vs	vs	vs	
									H 06	Q06	SEPT Q07	
PETROLEUM												
Crude oil & condensate	('000 bbl)		10,963	11,298	12,317		23,615	23,056		2%	12%	9%
Natural gas (a)	(bcf)		82.14	95.68	91.21		186.89	171.32		9%	11%	-5%
Natural gas liquid	('000 bbl)		2,747	3,095	2,685		5,780	5,877		-2%	-2%	-13%
Total Petroleum Products (a)	(million boe)		27.36	30.34	30.20		60.54	57.45		5%	10%	0%
ALUMINIUM												

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Alumina	('000 tonnes)	1,153	1,153	1,157		2,310	2,231		4%	0%	0%
Aluminium	('000 tonnes)	338	337	338		675	675		0%	0%	0%
BASE METALS											
Copper	('000 tonnes)	300.7	307.8	348.1		655.9	550.4		19%	16%	13%
Lead	(tonnes)	36,804	61,521	70,544		132,065	86,114		53%	92%	15%
Zinc	(tonnes)	19,776	37,259	27,807		65,066	43,787		49%	41%	-25%
Gold	(ounces)	38,564	40,313	45,714		86,027	79,724		8%	19%	13%
Silver	('000 ounces)	6,566	11,124	11,905		23,029	13,915		65%	81%	7%
Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	822	933	1,191		2,124	1,615		32%	45%	28%
Molybdenum	(tonnes)	768	693	679		1,372	1,487		-8%	-12%	-2%
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS											
Diamonds	('000 carats)	937	1,022	843		1,865	1,424		31%	-10%	-18%
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS											
Nickel	('000 tonnes)	48.3	38.6	43.7		82.3	92.8		-11%	-9%	13%
IRON ORE											
Iron ore (b)	('000 tonnes)	25,370	25,867	27,746		53,613	49,567		8%	9%	7%
MANGANESE											
Manganese ore	('000 tonnes)	1,529	1,445	1,613		3,058	3,038		1%	5%	12%
Manganese alloy	Production include Medium Carbon Ferro Manganese.	191	184	209		393	350		12%	9%	14%
METALLURGICAL COAL											
Metallurgical coal	('000 tonnes)	8,966	9,572	9,643		19,215	18,213		6%	8%	1%
ENERGY COAL											
Energy coal (c)	('000 tonnes)	20,720	19,623	20,609		40,232	41,198		-2%	-1%	5%

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(a)	Excluding Moranbah Coal Bed Methane (sold September 2006 quarter) and Typhoon / Boris (sold December 2006 quarter).	
(b)	Excluding Goldsworthy operations which were suspended mid calendar year 2006.	
(c)	Excluding Koornfontein which was disposed effective 1 July 2007.	
Throughout this report figures in italics indicate that this figure has been adjusted since it was previously reported.		

BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION			QUARTER ENDED					HALF YEAR ENDED	
		BHP Billiton	DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC	DEC	DEC
		Interest	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006
PETROLEUM									
Production									
	Crude oil & condensate	('000 bbl)	10,963	10,671	11,443	11,299	12,317	23,616	23,054
	Natural gas	(bcf)	83.09	86.68	95.25	95.68	91.21	186.89	174.92
	NGL (a)	('000 bbl)	2,746	2,626	3,018	3,095	2,685	5,780	5,878
	Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	27.52	27.68	30.47	30.34	30.20	60.54	58.05
ALUMINIUM									
ALUMINA									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Worsley	86%	776	708	768	784	771	1,555	1,480
	Suriname	45%	241	241	243	244	252	496	494
	Alumar	36%	136	136	133	125	134	259	257
	Total		1,153	1,085	1,144	1,153	1,157	2,310	2,231
ALUMINIUM									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Hillside	100%	176	174	177	178	180	358	353
	Bayside	100%	50	48	47	48	47	95	99
	Alumar	40%	45	44	44	44	44	88	89
	Mozal	47%	67	65	66	67	67	134	134

	Total		338	331	334	337	338		675	675
BASE METALS (b)										
COPPER										
Payable metal in concentrate ('000 tonnes)										
	Escondida	57.5%	160.6	178.1	170.5	167.0	177.3		344.3	290.3
	Antamina	33.8%	34.1	24.2	26.4	27.5	29.3		56.8	63.1
	Pinto Valley	100%	-	-	-	-	5.2		5.2	-
	Total		194.7	202.3	196.9	194.5	211.8		406.3	353.4
Cathode ('000 tonnes)										
	Escondida	57.5%	32.7	38.2	37.7	30.9	30.3		61.2	50.2
	Cerro Colorado	100%	27.4	28.1	20.3	23.1	27.3		50.4	57.4
	Spence (c)	100%	4.3	33.5	37.7	23.9	34.2		58.1	4.3
	Pinto Valley	100%	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7		3.5	3.8
	Olympic Dam	100%	39.7	53.6	47.6	33.6	42.8		76.4	81.3
	Total		106.0	155.3	145.2	113.3	136.3		249.6	197.0
LEAD										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Cannington	100%	36,454	62,974	62,409	61,073	70,369		131,442	85,431
	Antamina	33.8%	350	469	317	448	175		623	683
	Total		36,804	63,443	62,726	61,521	70,544		132,065	86,114
ZINC										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Cannington	100%	8,806	15,095	11,355	14,503	15,487		29,990	19,232
	Antamina	33.8%	10,970	20,665	27,793	22,756	12,320		35,076	24,555
	Total		19,776	35,760	39,148	37,259	27,807		65,066	43,787
	Refer footnotes on page 4.									
BASE METALS (continued)										

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GOLD										
Payable metal in concentrate (ounces)										
	Escondida	57.5%	22,365	21,243	23,754	23,194	21,376		44,570	39,414
	Olympic Dam (refined gold)	100%	16,199	22,661	28,689	17,119	24,338		41,457	40,310
	Total		38,564	43,904	52,443	40,313	45,714		86,027	79,724
SILVER										
Payable metal in concentrate ('000 ounces)										
	Escondida	57.5%	880	920	990	1,116	877		1,993	1,604
	Antamina	33.8%	736	749	934	1,056	652		1,708	1,449
	Cannington	100%	4,805	9,160	9,426	8,759	10,124		18,883	10,519
	Olympic Dam (refined silver)	100%	145	196	275	193	239		432	343
	Pinto Valley	100%	-	-	-	-	13		13	-
	Total		6,566	11,025	11,625	11,124	11,905		23,029	13,915
URANIUM OXIDE CONCENTRATE										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Olympic Dam	100%	822	883	988	933	1,191		2,124	1,615
	Total		822	883	988	933	1,191		2,124	1,615
MOLYBDENUM										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Antamina	33.8%	768	288	493	693	679		1,372	1,487
	Total		768	288	493	693	679		1,372	1,487
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS										
DIAMONDS										
Production ('000 carats)										
	Ekati™	80%	937	889	911	1,022	843		1,865	1,424
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS										

NICKEL									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	CMSA	99.9%	12.8	12.8	12.7	12.5	11.4	23.9	25.5
	Yabulu	100%	7.5	8.0	9.3	5.5	6.0	11.5	14.8
	Nickel West	100%	28.0	25.0	26.6	20.6	26.3	46.9	52.5
	Total		48.3	45.8	48.6	38.6	43.7	82.3	92.8
	Refer footnotes on page 4.								
IRON ORE									
Production ('000 tonnes) (d)									
	Mt Newman Joint Venture	85%	7,536	6,711	7,665	7,904	8,147	16,051	14,930
	Goldsworthy Joint Venture	85%	84	142	195	134	170	304	890
	Area C Joint Venture	85%	5,334	4,853	5,078	4,916	6,474	11,390	10,155
	Yandi Joint Venture	85%	9,106	8,277	9,661	9,823	9,770	19,593	17,610
	Jimblebar	85%	1,449	1,177	1,341	1,157	1,248	2,405	2,939
	Samarco	50%	1,945	1,866	2,001	2,067	2,107	4,174	3,933
	Total		25,454	23,026	25,941	26,001	27,916	53,917	50,457
MANGANESE									
MANGANESE ORES									
Saleable production ('000 tonnes)									
	South Africa (e)	60%	663	632	631	572	709	1,281	1,307
	Australia (e)	60%	866	820	888	873	904	1,777	1,731
	Total		1,529	1,452	1,519	1,445	1,613	3,058	3,038
MANGANESE ALLOYS									
Saleable production ('000 tonnes)									
	South Africa (e) (f)	60%	125	132	137	123	141	264	224
	Australia (e)	60%	66	64	49	61	68	129	126
	Total		191	196	186	184	209	393	350

METALLURGICAL COAL										
Production ('000 tonnes) (g)										
	BMA	50%	6,106	6,478	7,442	5,917	6,138		12,055	12,763
	BHP Mitsui Coal (h)	80%	873	1,067	2,047	1,454	1,526		2,980	1,746
	Illawarra	100%	1,987	1,539	1,643	2,201	1,979		4,180	3,704
	Total		8,966	9,084	11,132	9,572	9,643		19,215	18,213
ENERGY COAL										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	South Africa	100%	13,032	12,863	12,596	11,706	11,277		22,983	26,183
	USA	100%	3,871	3,106	4,636	2,511	3,671		6,182	7,338
	Australia	100%	2,790	2,731	2,610	2,918	2,959		5,877	5,556
	Colombia	33%	2,337	2,230	2,441	2,488	2,702		5,190	4,735
	Total		22,030	20,930	22,283	19,623	20,609		40,232	43,812
(a)	LPG and Ethane are reported as Natural Gas Liquid (NGL). Product-specific conversions are made and NGL is reported in barrels of oil equivalent (boe).									
(b)	Metal production is reported on the basis of payable metal.									
(c)	Spence operations were commissioned during the December 2006 quarter.									
(d)	Iron ore production is reported on a wet tonnes basis.									
(e)	Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.									
(f)	Production includes Medium Carbon Ferro Manganese.									
(g)	Metallurgical coal production is reported on the basis of saleable product. Production figures include some thermal coal.									
(h)	Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 80%.									

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT											
			QUARTER ENDED					HALF YEAR ENDED			
			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC		DEC	DEC	
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007		2007	2006	
PETROLEUM											
BHP Billiton attributable production unless otherwise stated.											

CRUDE OIL & CONDENSATE (^{'000} barrels)										
	Bass Strait		3,311	3,144	3,929	3,638	3,103		6,741	7,158
	North West Shelf		2,735	2,532	2,514	2,532	2,493		5,025	5,719
	Atlantis (a)		-	-	-	-	615		615	-
	Shenzi (a)		-	-	-	-	32		32	-
	Liverpool Bay & Bruce / Keith		1,482	1,053	1,011	923	946		1,869	2,592
	ROD / Ohanet		1,793	2,104	1,730	1,830	1,709		3,539	3,757
	Other (b)		1,642	1,838	2,259	2,376	3,419		5,795	3,828
	Total		10,963	10,671	11,443	11,299	12,317		23,616	23,054
NATURAL GAS (billion cubic feet) (c)										
	Bass Strait		20.53	22.73	37.70	39.77	28.41		68.18	54.07
	North West Shelf		27.48	27.10	25.70	27.17	28.13		55.30	52.70
	Atlantis (a)		-	-	-	-	0.12		0.12	-
	Shenzi (a)		-	-	-	-	0.01		0.01	-
	Liverpool Bay & Bruce / Keith		15.01	15.18	12.71	8.87	12.70		21.57	25.37
	Other (b)		20.07	21.67	19.14	19.87	21.84		41.71	42.79
	Total		83.09	86.68	95.25	95.68	91.21		186.89	174.92
NGL (^{'000} barrels)										
	Bass Strait		1,726	1,643	2,163	2,327	1,801		4,128	3,950
	North West Shelf		441	435	369	438	417		855	885
	Liverpool Bay & Bruce / Keith		143	151	124	48	153		201	288
	ROD / Ohanet		436	397	362	282	314		596	755
	Total		2,746	2,626	3,018	3,095	2,685		5,780	5,878
TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS										
(million barrels of oil equivalent) (d)										
	(a)	Atlantis and Genghis Khan operations were commissioned during the December 2007 quarter. Genghis Khan is reported in Shenzi.								
	(b)	Other includes Stybarrow, Griffin, Minerva, Angostura, Mad Dog, West Cameron 76, Mustang, Genesis, Starlifter, Green Canyon 18/60 and Pakistan. Stybarrow operation was commissioned during the December 2007 quarter.								

	(c)	BHP Billiton completed the sale of its interest in Moranbah Coal Bed Methane in the September 2006 quarter.									
	(d)	Total barrels of oil equivalent (boe) conversions are based on 6000scf of natural gas equals 1 boe.									
PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT											
			QUARTER ENDED						HALF YEAR ENDED		
			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC		DEC	DEC	
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007		2007	2006	
ALUMINIUM											
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.											
('000 tonnes)											
ALUMINA											
	Production										
	Worsley, Australia		776	708	768	784	771		1,555	1,480	
	Paranam, Suriname		241	241	243	244	252		496	494	
	Alumar, Brazil		136	136	133	125	134		259	257	
	Total		1,153	1,085	1,144	1,153	1,157		2,310	2,231	
	Sales										
	Worsley, Australia		820	659	794	792	803		1,595	1,486	
	Paranam, Suriname		243	225	253	244	265		509	479	
	Alumar, Brazil		137	120	164	131	128		259	245	
	Total (a)		1,200	1,004	1,211	1,167	1,196		2,363	2,210	
ALUMINIUM											
	Production										
	Hillside, South Africa		176	174	177	178	180		358	353	
	Bayside, South Africa		50	48	47	48	47		95	99	
	Alumar, Brazil		45	44	44	44	44		88	89	
	Mozal, Mozambique		67	65	66	67	67		134	134	
	Total		338	331	334	337	338		675	675	
	Sales										
	Hillside, South Africa		173	162	188	165	180		345	343	
	Bayside, South Africa		47	46	57	50	50		100	91	

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	Alumar, Brazil		42	38	47	43	48		91	86
	Mozal, Mozambique		66	64	70	56	72		128	126
	Total		328	310	362	314	350		664	646
	Tolling Agreement (a)		20	33	32	33	33		66	44
			348	343	394	347	383		730	690
(a)	Equity Alumina is converted into Aluminium under a third party tolling agreement. These tonnages are allocated to equity sales.									
PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
			QUARTER ENDED						HALF YEAR ENDED	
			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC		DEC	DEC
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007		2007	2006
BASE METALS										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. Metals production is payable metal unless otherwise stated.										
<u>Escondida, Chile</u>										
	Material mined (100%)	('000 tonnes)	93,770	85,654	88,409	82,995	88,319		171,314	153,371
	Sulphide ore milled (100%)	('000 tonnes)	22,585	23,450	23,064	22,406	21,777		44,183	40,842
	Average copper grade	(%)	1.55%	1.62%	1.58%	1.63%	1.72%		1.68%	1.55%
	Production ex Mill (100%)	('000 tonnes)	289.4	319.1	306.0	305.2	316.8		622.0	523.4
	Production									
	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	160.6	178.1	170.5	167.0	177.3		344.3	290.3
	Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	22,365	21,243	23,754	23,194	21,376		44,570	39,414
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	32.7	38.2	37.7	30.9	30.3		61.2	50.2
	Payable silver concentrate	('000 ounces)	880	920	990	1,116	877		1,993	1,604
	Sales									

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	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	167.9	149.4	199.0	162.9	173.0		335.9	301.7
	Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	23,089	17,966	27,623	22,957	21,158		44,115	40,867
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	27.3	36.0	43.0	35.8	26.9		62.7	41.5
	Payable silver concentrate	('000 ounces)	909	785	1,153	1,089	864		1,953	1,661
<u>Cerro Colorado, Chile</u>										
	Material mined	('000 tonnes)	18,858	15,429	13,984	17,095	17,798		34,893	35,192
	Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	4,578	4,398	4,365	4,278	4,410		8,688	9,086
	Average copper grade	(%)	0.81%	0.90%	0.79%	0.84%	1.03%		0.92%	0.81%
Production										
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	27.4	28.1	20.3	23.1	27.3		50.4	57.4
Sales										
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	28.3	27.9	24.1	23.5	24.5		48.0	56.2
<u>Spence, Chile (a)</u>										
	Material mined	('000 tonnes)	20,329	19,684	20,275	16,983	19,758		36,741	20,329
	Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	3,510	4,282	3,718	4,132	4,333		8,465	3,510
	Average copper grade	(%)	1.76%	2.00%	1.80%	1.56%	1.61%		1.60%	1.76%
Production										
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	4.3	33.5	37.7	23.9	34.2		58.1	4.3
Sales										
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	1.3	28.0	40.4	31.0	24.0		55.0	1.3
	(a)	Spence operations were commissioned during the December 2006 quarter.								
<u>Antamina, Peru</u>										

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	Material mined (100%)	('000 tonnes)	28,317	24,428	29,034	31,145	31,289		62,434	58,234
	Sulphide ore milled (100%)	('000 tonnes)	7,930	7,841	8,033	8,344	6,955		15,299	15,511
	Average head grades									
	- Copper	(%)	1.41%	1.10%	1.17%	1.15%	1.47%		1.32%	1.32%
	- Zinc	(%)	0.65%	1.25%	1.46%	1.17%	0.69%		0.95%	0.75%
	Production									
	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	34.1	24.2	26.4	27.5	29.3		56.8	63.1
	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	10,970	20,665	27,793	22,756	12,320		35,076	24,555
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	736	749	934	1,056	652		1,708	1,449
	Payable lead	(tonnes)	350	469	317	448	175		623	683
	Payable molybdenum	(tonnes)	768	288	493	693	679		1,372	1,487
	Sales									
	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	35.3	25.0	20.7	28.5	32.6		61.1	69.2
	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	13,853	15,479	31,914	25,306	12,458		37,764	28,077
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	623	707	645	917	719		1,636	1,478
	Payable lead	(tonnes)	346	686	394	334	140		474	991
	Payable molybdenum	(tonnes)	808	591	480	662	605		1,267	1,362
	<u>Cannington, Australia</u>									
	Material mined	('000 tonnes)	506	732	717	824	808		1,632	934
	Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	478	704	688	661	755		1,416	956
	Average head grades									
	- Silver	(g/t)	360	477	493	478	489		484	392
	- Lead	(%)	8.8%	10.5%	10.3%	10.4%	10.7%		10.5%	10.2%
	- Zinc	(%)	3.1%	3.6%	3.0%	3.5%	3.3%		3.4%	3.4%
	Production									

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	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	4,805	9,160	9,426	8,759	10,124		18,883	10,519
	Payable lead	(tonnes)	36,454	62,974	62,409	61,073	70,369		131,442	85,431
	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	8,806	15,095	11,355	14,503	15,487		29,990	19,232
	Sales									
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	6,637	8,331	10,352	6,725	11,266		17,991	11,647
	Payable lead	(tonnes)	51,521	56,726	66,411	46,148	78,325		124,473	91,215
	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	12,315	11,585	14,888	9,257	19,577		28,834	18,661
	Olympic Dam, Australia									
	Material mined (a)	('000 tonnes)	2,030	2,103	2,255	2,424	2,520		4,944	4,208
	Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	2,182	2,117	2,272	2,239	2,552		4,791	4,225
	Average copper grade	(%)	2.21%	1.96%	1.93%	1.83%	1.86%		1.85%	2.16%
	Average uranium grade	kg/t	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.57	0.63		0.60	0.57
	Production									
	Copper cathode (ER)	('000 tonnes)	35.4	50.2	44.1	30.6	40.2		70.8	73.8
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	4.3	3.4	3.5	3.0	2.6		5.6	7.5
	Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	822	883	988	933	1,191		2,124	1,615
	Refined gold	(fine ounces)	16,199	22,661	28,689	17,119	24,338		41,457	40,310
	Refined silver	('000 ounces)	145	196	275	193	239		432	343
	Sales									
	Copper cathode (ER)	('000 tonnes)	33.7	51.6	45.2	30.7	41.0		71.7	75.3
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	2.7	4.6	4.4	3.1	2.5		5.6	6.2
	Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	1,009	1,043	646	562	346		908	1,629

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	Refined gold	(fine ounces)	18,404	22,983	27,589	20,118	21,760		41,878	41,637
	Refined silver	('000 ounces)	157	183	294	192	237		429	345
	(a)	Material mined refers to run of mine ore mined and hoisted.								
<u>Pinto Valley, USA</u>										
	Production									
	Copper concentrate (a)	('000 tonnes)	-	-	-	-	5.2		5.2	-
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7		3.5	3.8
	Payable silver (a)	('000 ounces)	-	-	-	-	13.3		13.3	-
	Sales									
	Copper concentrate	('000 tonnes)	-	-	-	-	5.2		5.2	-
	Copper cathode (EW)	('000 tonnes)	1.6	1.5	2.5	0.9	0.9		1.8	3.2
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	-	-	-	-	13.3		13.3	-
	(a)	Production restarted during the December 2007 quarter.								

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
			QUARTER ENDED					HALF YEAR ENDED		
			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC	DEC	DEC	
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
DIAMONDS										
<u>Ekati™, Canada</u>										
	Ore Processed (100%)	('000 tonnes)	1,100	1,046	1,194	1,009	1,080		2,089	2,299

	Production	('000 carats)	937	889	911	1,022	843		1,865	1,424

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
			QUARTER ENDED					HALF YEAR ENDED		
			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC	DEC	DEC	
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
('000 tonnes)										
NICKEL										
<u>CMSA, Colombia</u>										
	Production		12.8	12.8	12.7	12.5	11.4		23.9	25.5
	Sales		14.4	12.4	12.5	6.9	13.2		20.1	26.1
<u>Yabulu, Australia</u>										
	Production									
	Nickel metal		7.5	8.0	9.3	5.5	6.0		11.5	14.8
	Cobalt		0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4		0.9	0.8
	Sales									
	Nickel metal		7.2	7.1	9.6	5.3	6.3		11.6	13.2
	Cobalt		0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5		0.9	0.8
<u>Nickel West, Australia</u>										
	Production									
	Nickel contained in concentrate		-	-	0.9	-	1.2		1.2	-
	Nickel contained in finished matte		12.4	12.9	13.2	3.9	8.5		12.4	23.5
	Nickel metal		15.6	12.1	12.5	16.7	16.6		33.3	29.0
	Nickel production		28.0	25.0	26.6	20.6	26.3		46.9	52.5
	Sales									
			-	-	0.9	-	0.9		0.9	-

	Nickel contained in concentrate									
	Nickel contained in finished matte		13.5	9.9	15.1	6.2	9.5		15.7	22.8
	Nickel metal		14.3	14.2	11.5	14.7	14.4		29.1	27.2
	Nickel sales		27.8	24.1	27.5	20.9	24.8		45.7	50.0
PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
			QUARTER ENDED						HALF YEAR ENDED	
			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC		DEC	DEC
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007		2007	2006
IRON ORE										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
('000 tonnes)										
IRON ORE (a)										
<u>Pilbara, Australia</u>										
	Production									
	Mt Newman Joint Venture		7,536	6,711	7,665	7,904	8,147		16,051	14,930
	Goldsworthy Joint Venture		84	142	195	134	170		304	890
	Area C Joint Venture		5,334	4,853	5,078	4,916	6,474		11,390	10,155
	Yandi Joint Venture		9,106	8,277	9,661	9,823	9,770		19,593	17,610
	Jimblebar		1,449	1,177	1,341	1,157	1,248		2,405	2,939
	Total (BHP Billiton share)		23,509	21,160	23,940	23,934	25,809		49,743	46,524
	Total production (100%)		27,658	24,896	28,165	28,159	30,363		58,522	54,734
	Shipments									
	Lump		5,856	5,193	5,753	6,076	7,179		13,255	12,285
	Fines		18,499	15,454	17,458	17,979	18,847		36,826	34,721
	Total (BHP Billiton share)		24,355	20,647	23,211	24,055	26,026		50,081	47,006
	Total sales (100%)		28,653	24,290	27,307	28,300	30,619		58,919	55,301
	(a)	Iron ore production and shipments are reported on a wet tonnes basis.								

<u>Samarco, Brazil</u>										
	Production		1,945	1,866	2,001	2,067	2,107		4,174	3,933
	Shipments		2,357	1,684	2,159	1,850	2,316		4,166	4,229

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
QUARTER ENDED										
HALF YEAR ENDED										
MANGANESE										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
('000 tonnes)										
MANGANESE ORE										
<u>South Africa</u>										
	Saleable production (a)		663	632	631	572	709		1,281	1,307
<u>Australia</u>										
	Saleable production (a)		866	820	888	873	904		1,777	1,731
MANGANESE ALLOY										
<u>South Africa</u>										
	Saleable production (a) (b)		125	132	137	123	141		264	224
<u>Australia</u>										
	Saleable production (a)		66	64	49	61	68		129	126
(a)	Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.									
(b)	Production includes Medium Carbon Ferro Manganese.									
PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
QUARTER ENDED										
HALF YEAR ENDED										

			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC		DEC	DEC
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007		2007	2006
METALLURGICAL COAL										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
('000 tonnes)										
METALLURGICAL COAL										
(a)										
<u>Queensland, Australia</u>										
	Production									
	<u>BMA</u>									
	Blackwater		1,388	1,484	1,730	1,407	1,370		2,777	2,924
	Goonyella		1,296	1,896	2,268	1,677	1,505		3,182	3,188
	Peak Downs		1,161	1,076	1,045	881	1,243		2,124	2,363
	Saraji		893	883	939	777	890		1,667	1,575
	Norwich Park		677	745	797	502	576		1,078	1,308
	Gregory Joint Venture		691	394	663	673	554		1,227	1,405
	BMA total		6,106	6,478	7,442	5,917	6,138		12,055	12,763
	<u>BHP Mitsui Coal (b)</u>									
	South Walker Creek		782	785	982	939	868		1,807	1,655
	Poitrel (c)		91	282	1,065	515	658		1,173	91
	BHP Mitsui Coal total		873	1,067	2,047	1,454	1,526		2,980	1,746
	<u>Queensland total</u>		6,979	7,545	9,489	7,371	7,664		15,035	14,509
	Shipments									
	Coking coal		5,040	5,368	5,684	5,479	5,875		11,354	10,230
	Weak coking coal		1,749	1,710	1,804	1,668	1,966		3,634	3,349
	Thermal coal		502	419	854	516	328		844	846
	Total		7,291	7,497	8,343	7,663	8,169		15,832	14,425
	(a)	Metallurgical coal production is reported on the basis of saleable product. Production figures include some thermal coal.								
	(b)	Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 80%.								
	(c)	Poitrel was commissioned during the December 2006 quarter.								
	<u>Illawarra, Australia</u>									
	Production		1,987	1,539	1,643	2,201	1,979		4,180	3,704

	Shipments									
	Coking coal		1,583	1,624	1,724	1,906	1,851		3,757	2,949
	Thermal coal		280	175	288	199	290		489	468
	Total		1,863	1,799	2,012	2,105	2,141		4,246	3,417

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT										
			QUARTER ENDED					HALF YEAR ENDED		
			DEC	MAR	JUNE	SEPT	DEC	DEC	DEC	
			2006	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	
ENERGY COAL										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
('000 tonnes)										
<u>South Africa (a)</u>										
	Production		13,032	12,863	12,596	11,706	11,277		22,983	26,183
	Sales									
	Export		5,211	5,068	5,218	4,207	4,269		8,476	10,379
	Local utility		7,413	7,874	7,416	7,063	7,351		14,414	14,965
	Inland		227	259	310	388	209		597	482
	Total		12,851	13,201	12,944	11,658	11,829		23,487	25,826
	(a)	Koornfontein was sold with effect from 1 July 2007.								
<u>New Mexico, USA</u>										
	Production									
	Navajo Coal		2,104	1,971	2,321	1,548	1,899		3,447	3,882
	San Juan Coal		1,767	1,135	2,315	963	1,772		2,735	3,456
	Total		3,871	3,106	4,636	2,511	3,671		6,182	7,338
	Sales - local utility		3,616	3,400	3,185	3,693	3,254		6,947	7,438
<u>Hunter Valley, Australia</u>										
	Production		2,790	2,731	2,610	2,918	2,959		5,877	5,556
	Sales									

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	Export		1,858	1,479	1,934	1,423	1,892		3,315	3,103
	Inland		1,005	1,168	909	1,179	985		2,164	2,036
	Total		2,863	2,647	2,843	2,602	2,877		5,479	5,139
Cerrejon Coal, Colombia										
	Production		2,337	2,230	2,441	2,488	2,702		5,190	4,735
	Sales - export		2,323	2,446	2,401	2,761	2,334		5,095	4,659

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

Australia

Samantha Evans, Media Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 2898 Mobile: +61 400 693 915
email: Samantha.Evans@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom

Andre Liebenberg, Investor Relations
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7920 236 974
email: Andre.Liebenberg@bhpbilliton.com

Don Carroll, Investor Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 2686 Mobile: +61 417 591 938
email: Don.A.Carroll@bhpbilliton.com

Illtud Harri, Media Relations
Tel: +44 20 7802 4195 Mobile: +44 7920 237 246
email: Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com

United States

Tracey Whitehead, Investor & Media Relations
Tel: US +1 713 599 6100 or UK +44 20 7802 4031
Mobile: +44 7917 648 093
email: Tracey.Whitehead@bhpbilliton.com

South Africa

Alison Gilbert, Investor Relations
Tel: SA +27 11 376 2121 or UK +44 20 7802 4183
Mobile: +44 7769 936 227
email: Alison.Gilbert@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone +61 1300 554 757 Facsimile +61 3 9609 3015

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH
United Kingdom
Telephone +44 20 7802 4000 Facsimile +44 20 7802 4111

The BHP Billiton Group is 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: 23 January 2008

By: Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon
Title: Group Company Secretary