

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
June 27, 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**  
**June 27, 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 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

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**BHP BILLITON DETAILS VALUE-FOCUSED APPROACH TO EXPLORATION**

BHP Billiton today outlined its value-focused approach to exploration which will see the Company target opportunities across copper and oil to enhance its long-life, tier 1 portfolio.

Speaking at Citigroup's Mining Exploration Day in Sydney, BHP Billiton Head of Geoscience, Laura Tyler, said the Company is focusing its exploration approach through targeted analysis and the establishment of a Geoscience Centre of Excellence.

Ms Tyler said exploration is seen as a key source of value creation for BHP Billiton.

We are investing at a time when most in our sector continue to reduce discretionary spend, she said.

Next financial year, we intend to invest approximately US\$900 million dollars in exploration, which represents 18 per cent of our overall capital budget.

We are also challenging existing paradigms with a scientific based and disciplined approach to exploration. We have reduced exploration operating costs by 70 per cent since 2013, and this year we have increased the targets tested by 44 per cent.

BHP Billiton's Petroleum exploration program is focused on three conventional deepwater basins in:

the Gulf of Mexico,

the Caribbean (in Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados), and

the Northern Beagle sub-basin off the coast of Western Australia.

Over the last four years we have developed a new approach to Petroleum exploration that is much more focused, Ms Tyler said.

We have commenced drilling in Trinidad and Tobago and have secured an additional rig which will soon commence drilling in a prospective block north of our Shenzi operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

BHP Billiton's Copper exploration program is targeting tier 1 greenfield mineral deposits, with a particular focus on:

copper porphyry and skarn deposits in Chile, Peru and the south west of the United States,

sedimentary hosted copper deposits in the north of Canada, and

Iron Oxide Copper Gold deposits in South Australia's Stuart Shelf, adjacent to Olympic Dam.

We execute our Copper exploration both directly and through investment in joint venture opportunities and we continue to seek partnerships with junior explorers, Ms Tyler said.

The Company's regionally based exploration teams are supported by a globally integrated geoscience team to facilitate a faster adoption of best practice and new technology.

Internal collaboration is very important and we are leveraging our Petroleum business geoscience to identify prospective sediment hosted copper deposit basins, Ms Tyler said.

Similarly, we are adopting technology from Petroleum and applying directional drilling techniques to copper exploration.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: **[bhpbilliton.com](http://bhpbilliton.com)**

## Media Relations

### Australia and Asia

Eleanor Colonico  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2360 Mobile +61 407 064 748  
Email: [Eleanor.Colonico@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Eleanor.Colonico@bhpbilliton.com)

Paul Hitchins  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2592 Mobile +61 419 315 001  
Email: [Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com)

Fiona Hadley  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2211 Mobile +61 427 777 908  
Email: [Fiona.Hadley@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Fiona.Hadley@bhpbilliton.com)

### United Kingdom and South Africa

Ruban Yogarajah  
Tel: +44 207 802 4033 Mobile +44 7827 082 022  
Email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

Jennifer White  
Tel : +44 207 802 7462 Mobile +44 7827 253 764  
Email: [Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com)

### North America

Jaryl Strong  
Tel: +1 713 499 5548 Mobile: +1 281 222 6627  
Email: [Jaryl.Strong@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jaryl.Strong@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 18, 171 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia  
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015  
Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is

headquartered in Australia

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## Investor Relations

### Australia and Asia

Tara Dines  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005  
Email: [Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com)

Andrew Gunn  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 402 087 354  
Email: [Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com)

### United Kingdom and South Africa

Rob Clifford  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7788 308 844  
Email: [Rob.Clifford@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Rob.Clifford@bhpbilliton.com)

### Americas

James Wear  
Tel: +1 212 310 1421 Mobile: +1 347 882 3011  
Email: [James.Wear@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:James.Wear@bhpbilliton.com)

Joseph Suarez  
Tel: +1 212 310 1422 Mobile: +1 646 400 3803  
Email: [Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209  
Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place  
London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom  
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111



































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: June 27, 2016

By: /s/ Rachel Agnew

Name: Rachel Agnew

Title: Company Secretary