

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
February 02, 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 1, 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 1 February 2016

Release Number 3/16

STANDARD & POOR S REVIEW OF BHP BILLITON S CREDIT RATING

BHP Billiton notes the announcement today, 1 February 2016, by Standard & Poor s that it has lowered the credit ratings of BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc from A+ to A.

The rating on BHP Billiton s senior secured notes has been lowered from A+ to A and subordinated notes from A- to BBB+.

BHP Billiton has also been placed on CreditWatch with negative implications and Standard & Poor s has advised it aims to resolve the CreditWatch after the release of BHP Billiton s Results for the half year ended 31 December 2015.

BHP Billiton has the strongest credit rating in the sector and remains committed to maintaining its strong balance sheet through the cycle.

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

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077
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Registered in Australia
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This release was made outside the hours of operation of the ASX market announcements office.

Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is
headquartered in Australia

Investor Relations

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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209
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Registered in England and Wales
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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 1, 2016

By: /s/ Rachel Agnew
Name: Rachel Agnew
Title: Company Secretary