

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
February 01, 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

December 16, 2005

BHP Billiton Limited

(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

16 December 2005
Number 50/05

BHP BILLITON APPROVES ITS SHARE OF NWS ANGEL DEVELOPMENT

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BHP Billiton announced today its share of development costs for the North West Shelf Venture's Angel gas and condensate field off the north west coast of Australia. Development will begin immediately following final investment decisions by all of the joint-venture participants.

Based on the operator's estimate the total investment is A\$1.6 billion (BHP Billiton's share approximately US\$200 million). This will include installation of the Venture's third major offshore production platform off the North West Shelf and associated infrastructure, including a new subsea 50km pipeline which will be tied in to the first trunkline at the North Rankin platform. The development is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2008.

BHP Billiton's Group President Energy, Philip Aiken, said: "The development is another significant step in BHP Billiton's goal to maximise the value of our interest in the North West Shelf and follows our approval of the fifth train expansion earlier this year."

"The Angel project continues to build on the foundation of the North West Shelf's LNG business," Mr Aiken said.

The remotely operated Angel processing platform will be in 80 metres of water about 49km east of the Venture's existing North Rankin production facility. Hydrocarbons will be produced through one processing unit with a capacity of up to 800 million standard cubic feet of gas a day plus associated condensate.

The six equal participants in the NWS Project are: Woodside Energy Ltd. (16.67% and operator); BHP Billiton Petroleum (North West Shelf) Pty Ltd (16.67%); BP Developments Australia Pty Ltd (16.67%); Chevron Australia Pty Ltd (16.67%); Japan Australia LNG (MIMI) Pty Ltd (16.67%); and Shell Development (Australia) Pty Ltd (16.67%). CNOOC NWS Private Limited is also a member of the North West Shelf Venture but does not have an interest in North West Shelf Venture infrastructure.

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

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria
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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

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The BHP Billiton Group 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.

BHP Billiton Limited

Date: 16 December 2005

By: Karen Wood

Name: Karen Wood

Title: Company Secretary