

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
February 01, 2012

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# 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

February 01, 2012

<b>Commission File Number</b>	<b>Translation of registrant's name into English; Address of principal executive offices</b>
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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-.

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NEWS RELEASE

Release Time:  
IMMEDIATE

Date:  
01 February 2012

Number:  
03/12

DIVESTMENT OF INTEREST IN RICHARDS BAY MINERALS

BHP Billiton has exercised an option to sell its 37% non-operated interest in Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) to Rio Tinto and will exit the titanium minerals industry.

RBM is a South African mineral sands mining and smelting operation and the leading producer of chloride titanium feedstock. BHP Billiton holds a 37% equity stake in RBM with equity partners Rio Tinto (37%), Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) parties (24%) and employees (2%). Rio Tinto manages the operation and is responsible for the marketing of RBM's products.

As part of the restructuring of RBM in 2009, BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto concluded a put option agreement that made provision for BHP Billiton to sell its interest in RBM to Rio Tinto pursuant to an agreed valuation process. The parties will work together to facilitate a smooth transfer of BHP Billiton's stake.

Completion of the sale is conditional upon the fulfilment of customary regulatory approvals with the final consideration to be determined according to the agreed valuation process.

BHP Billiton Southern Africa Chairman, Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi, said: "BHP Billiton's position in RBM is a non-operated shareholding in an industry in which it holds no other interests. BHP Billiton will continue operating its Southern African energy coal, aluminium and manganese businesses in a sustainable manner."

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

Media Relations

Australia

Samantha Stevens

Tel: +61 3 9609 2898 Mobile: +61 400 693 915

email: Samantha.Stevens@bhpbilliton.com

Kelly Quirke

Tel: +61 3 9609 2896 Mobile: +61 429 966 312

email: Kelly.Quirke@bhpbilliton.com

Fiona Martin

Tel: +61 3 9609 2211 Mobile: +61 427 777 908

email: Fiona.Martin2@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom and Americas

Ruban Yogarajah

Tel: US +1 713 966 2907 or UK +44 20 7802 4033

Mobile: UK +44 7827 082 022

email: Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com

Investor Relations

Australia

James Agar

Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 467 807 064

email: James.Agar@bhpbilliton.com

Andrew Gunn

Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 439 558 454

email: Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom and South Africa

Brendan Harris

Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7990 527 726

email: Brendan.Harris@bhpbilliton.com

Tara Dines

Tel : +44 20 7802 7113 Mobile : +44 7825 342 232

Email : Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com

Americas

Scott Espenshade

Tel: +1 713 599 6431 Mobile: +1 713 208 8565

email: Scott.Espenshade@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia

Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

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Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales

Registered Office: Neathouse Place

London SW1V 1BH United Kingdom

Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

Members of the BHP Billiton Group which 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.

Date : February 01, 2012

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