

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
May 04, 2010

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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

May 03, 2010

| <u>Commission File Number</u> | <u>Translation of registrant's name into English; Address of principal executive offices</u> |
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|  | BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077)<br>180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA<br>3000 AUSTRALIA |
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|---|---|
| - | BHP Billiton Plc (REG. NO. 3196209)<br>NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,<br>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 2 May 2010

Number 13/10

### BHP BILLITON DISAPPOINTED WITH NEW AUSTRALIAN MINING TAX

BHP Billiton today expressed its disappointment with the Australian Government's plan to impose a new resource rent tax. The imposition of this new tax would result in an increase in the total effective tax rate on the Group's profits earned from its Australian operations from around 43 per cent currently to around 57 per cent from 2013.

Multi-billion dollar, long-term investments in the Australian resources sector have contributed significantly to the prosperity of all Australians. In the last three years the resources sector has contributed 18 per cent of Australia's GDP, is the largest contributor to Australian export revenues at 42 per cent and has been the largest contributor to corporate tax revenues. Much of the profit in the sector has been re-invested in resource and infrastructure projects in Australia. A key factor underpinning the decisions behind these investments has been Australia's reputation for providing a stable and competitive taxation regime.

BHP Billiton Chief Executive Officer Marius Kloppers said: "The stability and competitiveness of the tax system have been central to the investment in resources in Australia. If implemented, these proposals seriously threaten Australia's competitiveness, jeopardise future investments and will adversely impact the future wealth and standard of living of all Australians."

BHP Billiton recognises that governments will review taxation policy and rates from time to time. The Group, however, has been advocating that taxation changes should be designed so that they preserve the basis upon which past capital investments have been made, maintain the future international competitiveness of Australia's resources industry, acknowledge that different products have different return characteristics, and encourage private investment in infrastructure and processing.

Mr Kloppers said: "The Government has not defined all aspects of the design, implementation and application of the new tax, and until they are clarified we cannot be certain what the full implications for the industry will be. However, this significant new tax will have the effect of making investments in Australia much less attractive."

The Government has indicated it will consult with industry regarding this new tax proposal and BHP Billiton will constructively contribute to this process.

Note: In 2009 BHP Billiton paid taxes totalling A\$6.3 billion in relation to its Australian businesses, comprising company tax of A\$3.0 billion, State royalties of A\$1.9 billion, Petroleum Resource Rent Tax of A\$1.1 billion, and other taxes of \$0.35 billion.

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

Australia

Amanda Buckley, Media Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 2209 Mobile: +61 419 801 349

email: [Amanda.Buckley@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Amanda.Buckley@bhpbilliton.com)

Fiona Martin, Media Relations

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

email: [Fiona.Martin2@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Fiona.Martin2@bhpbilliton.com)

Leng Lau, Investor Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 4202 Mobile: +61 403 533 706

email: [Leng.Y.Lau@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Leng.Y.Lau@bhpbilliton.com)

United Kingdom & South Africa

Andre Liebenberg, Investor Relations

Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7920 236 974

email: [Andre.Liebenberg@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Andre.Liebenberg@bhpbilliton.com)

Illtud Harri, Media Relations

Tel: +44 20 7802 4195 Mobile: +44 7920 237 246

email: [Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com)

Americas

Scott Espenshade, Investor Relations

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

email: [Scott.Espenshade@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Scott.Espenshade@bhpbilliton.com)

Ruban Yogarajah, Media Relations

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

Mobile: UK +44 7827 082 022

email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia

Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

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

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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 : May 03, 2010

BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077)

By: /s/ Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon

Title: Group Company Secretary