

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
March 25, 2011

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

March 24, 2011

<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) 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-.

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time
IMMEDIATE

Date
24 March 2011

Number 10/11

EXPANSION OF HUNTER VALLEY ENERGY COAL

BHP Billiton today announced approval of a US\$400 million investment to expand Hunter Valley Energy Coal in New South Wales, Australia.

The expansion, known as the RX1 Project (RX1), will enable Mt Arthur Coal's run-of-mine thermal coal production to increase by 4 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), to approximately 24 mtpa. RX1 is substantially a mine only expansion without an associated increase in coal preparation plant capacity.

RX1 is expected to deliver first production in the second half of the 2013 calendar year. In addition to the employment generated by the project during construction, the RX1 expansion is expected to generate approximately 300 new, full time jobs.

BHP Billiton Energy Coal President, Jimmy Wilson, said "The emergence of demand for coal in the key growth markets allows us to get product to market quickly, ahead of further coal preparation plant expansions. Importantly, the RX1 Project will take advantage of existing port capacity and future expansion options will be supported by Mt Arthur Coal's large, low cost resource and the ability to expand the coal processing facilities."

BHP Billiton owns 100 percent of Mt Arthur Coal through Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Ltd.

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: 180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

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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

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 : March 24, 2011

BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077)

By: /s/ Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon

Title:

Group Company Secretary