

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
November 10, 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

November 10, 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:
10 November 2011

Number:
32/11

AMENDMENT TO WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ROYALTIES AND STATE AGREEMENTS

BHP Billiton has finalised an agreement with the Western Australian Government to increase the royalty rate payable to the State for its iron ore Fines product.

Based on this agreement, the Western Australian Government will proceed with amendments to the State Agreement Acts covering operations managed by BHP Billiton Iron Ore. These amendments will include an increase in the royalty rate applicable to iron ore Fines from 5.625 per cent of sales revenue to 6.5 per cent from 1 July 2012, and then to 7.5 per cent from 1 July 2013. This will align the royalty rate for Fines with the existing rate paid on Lump ore.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore President, Ian Ashby, said: "The changes to the State Agreements will give the Company greater certainty in planning and executing our growth projects, particularly the proposed Outer Harbour Development."

The State Agreement amendments are subject to the approval of the Parliament of Western Australia.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: 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

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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 : November 10, 2011

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