

BHP BILLITON PLC
Form 6-K
October 27, 2005

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

October

27, 2005

BHP Billiton

Plc

(Translation of registrant's name into English) Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH United Kingdom
(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

27 October 2005
Number 42/05

BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

BHP Billiton today released its production report for the quarter ended 30 September 2005. Throughout this report, unless otherwise stated, production volumes refer to BHP Billiton share.

- Record quarterly copper and nickel production reflecting the successful integration of the recently acquired Olympic Dam and Nickel West (both Australia) assets.
- Petroleum volumes impacted by hurricane related production disruptions in the Gulf of Mexico (USA) and unplanned outages at North West Shelf (Australia).
- Escondida Norte (Chile) successfully commissioned on schedule.
- Western Australia Iron Ore production impacted by unseasonably wet weather conditions and a train derailment.

Crude Oil & Condensate ('000 bbl)	12,234	-1%	-12%
Natural Gas (bcf)	97.65	27%	-1%
Total Petroleum Products (million boe)	31.38	12%	-5%

Total Petroleum Products -

Total production for the September 2005 quarter of 31.4 million barrels of oil equivalent was higher than the September 2004 quarter. This primarily reflects increased natural gas production. Production was lower than the June 2005 quarter primarily reflecting hurricane related production disruptions in the Gulf of Mexico.

Crude Oil and Condensate -

Production for the September 2005 quarter was in line with the September 2004 quarter. Natural field decline at Bass Strait (Australia) and Typhoon (USA), the sale of our interest in Laminaria (Australia) in January 2005, well downtime at North West Shelf and hurricane damage at Typhoon all led to lower volumes during the quarter. Offsetting this was new production following the commissioning of ROD (Algeria) in October 2004 and Angostura (Trinidad & Tobago) and Mad Dog (USA), both in January 2005.

Production was lower than the June 2005 quarter due to natural field decline at Bass Strait, Typhoon and Liverpool Bay (UK), well downtime at North West Shelf and hurricane interrupted production at Typhoon and Mad Dog.

Natural Gas -

Production for the September 2005 quarter was significantly higher than the September 2004 quarter. This reflects the commissioning of Minerva (Australia) in January 2005, higher production of North West Shelf LNG following the commissioning of the 4th LNG Train in September 2004 and extended shut-downs at Liverpool Bay and Bruce (UK) in the September 2004 quarter.

Production for the September 2005 quarter was in line with the June 2005 quarter. Higher demand for Bass Strait and Minerva gas was offset by lower seasonal demand for Liverpool Bay gas, higher downtime at Bruce, Liverpool Bay and North West Shelf and hurricane interruptions to production at Typhoon.

Alumina ('000 tonnes)	1,028	3%	-2%
Aluminium ('000 tonnes)	334	-1%	4%

Alumina -

September 2005 quarter production increased over the September 2004 quarter primarily reflecting increased production at Worsley (Australia). Whilst a calciner outage impacted production at Worsley in both quarters, there was a lesser effect in the current quarter.

Production was slightly below the June 2005 quarter reflecting scheduled calciner maintenance at both Worsley and Alumar (Brazil). This was partially offset by recovering production from Suriname following commissioning difficulties with the expansion project in the prior quarter.

Aluminium

- September 2005 quarter production increased over the June 2005 quarter reflecting recovering production at Bayside (South Africa) following a potline outage in April 2005.

Copper ('000 tonnes)	308.9	24%	14%
Silver ('000 ounces)	11,362	-3%	-4%
Lead (tonnes)	64,873	0%	0%
Uranium Oxide Concentrate (tonnes)	1,088	n/a	n/a

Copper -

Record quarterly copper production was achieved in the September 2005 quarter. This primarily reflects the inclusion of a full quarter of production from Olympic Dam and record quarterly production at Escondida (Chile), reflecting higher head grades and increased mill throughput. This was partially offset by lower production from Cerro Colorado following an earthquake in June 2005.

Silver -

Decreased production in the September 2005 quarter was driven by lower head grades at Cannington (Australia).

Lead -

September quarter production was in line with both the September 2004 and June 2005 quarters.

Uranium Oxide Concentrate -

Production of 1,088 tonnes of uranium oxide for the September 2005 quarter reflects the inclusion of a full quarter of production from Olympic Dam.

Iron ore ('000 tonnes)	23,601	5%	-7%
Metallurgical Coal ('000 tonnes)	8,986	-3%	-6%
Manganese Ores ('000 tonnes)	1,387	1%	-2%
Manganese Alloys ('000 tonnes)	139	-29%	-11%

Iron Ore -

September 2005 quarter production increased over the September 2004 quarter reflecting the ramp up of production at Western Australia Iron Ore following the completion of the Accelerated Expansion Project and Rapid Growth Project 1 in June 2004 and December 2004 respectively.

Production was lower than the June 2005 quarter reflecting unseasonably wet weather conditions and a train derailment at Western Australia Iron Ore.

Metallurgical Coal -

September 2005 quarter production was lower than the September 2004 quarter. This primarily reflects lower Queensland Coal (Australia) production due to the depletion of reserves at Riverside, a scheduled dragline outage at Saraji and heavy rainfall at South Walker Creek. This was partially offset by increased production at Illawarra Coal (Australia) following the commissioning of Dendrobium in April 2005.

Production was lower than the June 2005 quarter due to decreased production at Queensland Coal as outlined above, and lower production at Illawarra Coal reflecting longwall changeouts at both West Cliff and Appin.

Manganese ore -

Production for the September 2005 quarter was in line with both the September 2004 and June 2005 quarters.

Manganese alloys -

Decreased production in the September 2005 quarter reflects scheduled maintenance at Metalloys (South Africa) and changes to product mix at Temco (Australia).

Diamonds ('000 carats)	852	-14%	-11%
Fertilizer ('000 tonnes)	244.9	n/a	n/a

Diamonds -

Carat production decreased in the September 2005 quarter reflecting the processing of lower grade ore at Ekati (Canada). This is expected to continue for the remainder of the 2006 financial year.

Fertilizer -

Increased production for the September 2005 quarter reflects the inclusion of a full quarter of production from Southern Cross Fertilizer Operations (Australia) (formerly Queensland Fertilizer Operations).

Energy Coal ('000 tonnes)	24,010	3%	6%

Energy Coal -

Production for the September 2005 quarter was higher than the September 2004 quarter reflecting record quarterly production at New Mexico Coal (USA) due to favourable geological conditions at San Juan Coal and inventory building in preparation for a dragline outage at Navajo Coal. In addition, record production at Cerrejon Coal (Colombia) reflects the ramp up of recently expanded capacity.

Production was higher than the June 2005 quarter and primarily reflects higher production at Ingwe (South Africa) due to ongoing improvement initiatives and response to increased domestic demand, as well as record quarterly production at both New Mexico Coal and Cerrejon Coal.

Nickel ('000 tonnes)	44.1	125%	39%

Nickel

- Record production in the September 2005 quarter primarily reflects the inclusion of a full quarter of production from Nickel West. This was partially offset by lower production at Yabulu (Australia) reflecting maintenance and tie-in activities associated with the Yabulu expansion project.

Production at Cerro Matoso (Colombia) in the September 2005 quarter was higher than the September 2004 quarter reflecting improved operating efficiencies, however a major planned maintenance shut down led to lower production compared to the June 2005 quarter.

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

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BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION SUMMARY			QUARTER ENDED			QUARTER ENDED		% CHANGE	
			SEPT 2004	JUNE 2005	SEPT 2005	SEPT 2005	SEPT 2004	SEP Q05 vs SEP Q04	SEP Q05 vs JUN Q05
PETROLEUM									
Crude oil & condensate	('000 bbl)		12,366	13,939	12,234	12,234	12,366	-1%	-12%
Natural gas	(bcf)		77.19	98.79	97.65	97.65	77.19	27%	-1%
LPG	('000 tonnes)		231.03	213.71	234.24	234.24	231.03	1%	10%
Ethane	('000 tonnes)		27.75	22.97	28.02	28.02	27.75	1%	22%
Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)		28.03	33.13	31.38	31.38	28.03	12%	-5%
ALUMINIUM									
Alumina	('000 tonnes)		1,000	1,054	1,028	1,028	1,000	3%	-2%
Aluminium	('000 tonnes)		339	321	334	334	339	-1%	4%
BASE METALS									
Copper			248.8	269.8	308.9	308.9	248.8	24%	14%

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		('000 tonnes)								
	Lead	(tonnes)	64,910	64,652	64,873		64,873	64,910	0%	0%
	Zinc	(tonnes)	23,851	28,204	29,147		29,147	23,851	22%	3%
	Gold	(ounces)	30,132	31,882	53,666		53,666	30,132	78%	68%
	Silver	('000 ounces)	11,769	11,881	11,362		11,362	11,769	-3%	-4%
	Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	-	415	1,088		1,088	-	-	-
	Molybdenum	(tonnes)	323	492	573		573	323	77%	16%
CARBON STEEL MATERIALS										
	Iron ore	('000 tonnes)	22,545	25,296	23,601		23,601	22,545	5%	-7%
	Metallurgical coal	('000 tonnes)	9,241	9,570	8,986		8,986	9,241	-3%	-6%
	Manganese ores	('000 tonnes)	1,379	1,418	1,387		1,387	1,379	1%	-2%
	Manganese alloys	('000 tonnes)	195	156	139		139	195	-29%	-11%
DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS										
	Diamonds	('000 carats)	986	957	852		852	986	-14%	-11%
	Fertilizer	('000 tonnes)	-	73.9	244.9		244.9	-	-	-
ENERGY COAL										
	Energy coal	('000 tonnes)	23,245	22,703	24,010		24,010	23,245	3%	6%
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS										
	Nickel	('000 tonnes)	19.6	31.8	44.1		44.1	19.6	125%	39%
	Ferrochrome	('000 tonnes)	265	178	-		-	265	-100%	-100%
Throughout this report figures in italics indicate that this figure has been adjusted since it was previously reported.										

BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION									
			QUARTER ENDED					QUARTER ENDED	
			SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	SEPT	SEPT	SEPT
			2004	2004	2005	2005	2005	2005	2004
PETROLEUM									
Production									
	Crude oil & condensate	(000 bbl)	12,366	12,190	12,345	13,939	12,234	12,234	12,366
	Natural gas	(bcf)	77.19	87.35	82.35	98.79	97.65	97.65	77.19
	LPG	('000 tonnes)	231.03	216.07	199.29	213.71	234.24	234.24	231.03
	Ethane	('000 tonnes)	27.75	27.20	23.61	22.97	28.02	28.02	27.75
	Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	28.03	29.38	28.49	33.13	31.38	31.38	28.03
ALUMINIUM									
ALUMINA									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Worsley	86%	663	686	746	718	689	689	663
	Suriname	45%	223	222	220	209	227	227	223
	Alumar	36%	114	128	126	127	112	112	114
	Total		1,000	1,036	1,092	1,054	1,028	1,028	1,000
ALUMINIUM									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Hillside	100%	173	171	169	172	172	172	173
	Bayside	100%	46	46	45	29	41	41	46
	Alumar	46.3%	44	45	43	44	45	45	44
	Valesul	45.5%	11	11	10	11	11	11	11
	Mozal	47%	65	65	65	65	65	65	65
	Total		339	338	332	321	334	334	339
BASE METALS (a)									
COPPER									

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Payable metal in concentrate ('000 tonnes)									
	Escondida	57.5%	142.5	146.3	135.4	154.0	168.6	168.6	142.5