

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
June 21, 2013

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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

June 20, 2013

<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-.

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NEWS RELEASE

Release Time:  
IMMEDIATE

Date:  
20 June 2013

Number:  
14/13

**BHP BILLITON EXTENDS WESTERN AUSTRALIA IRON ORE JOINT VENTURE RELATIONSHIP**

BHP Billiton today announced an extension of its long term joint venture relationship with ITOCHU Corporation (ITOCHU) and Mitsui & Co., Ltd. (Mitsui).

Under the terms of the agreement, ITOCHU and Mitsui will invest approximately US\$0.8 billion and US\$0.7 billion respectively in shares and loans of BHP Iron Ore (Jimblebar) Pty Ltd, representing an eight per cent and seven per cent interest in the Jimblebar mining hub and resource. The consideration includes a share of capital costs associated with the Jimblebar Mine Expansion project incurred to date. The transaction is subject to Australian Foreign Investment Review Board approval and other customary conditions and is expected to be completed in the September 2013 quarter.

ITOCHU and Mitsui collectively hold a 15 per cent interest in BHP Billiton's Western Australia Iron Ore current mine, rail and port infrastructure. This investment will align interests across the Western Australia Iron Ore supply chain and drive simplicity and flexibility.

BHP Billiton President Iron Ore, Jimmy Wilson, said: "We are pleased to extend our successful, long standing joint venture relationship with ITOCHU and Mitsui. The new Jimblebar mine will have initial production capacity of 35 million tonnes per annum (100 per cent basis) with future expansion potential. Once fully operational this will bring Western Australia Iron Ore's supply chain capacity to 220 million tonnes per annum (100 per cent basis)."

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

Note: This release was made outside the hours of operation of the ASX market announcements office.

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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

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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 : June 20, 2013

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