

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
January 21, 2009

**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**

January 21, 2009

**BHP BILLITON LIMITED**

**(ABN 49 004 028 077)**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**BHP BILLITON PLC**

**(REG. NO. 3196209)**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**  
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

**ENGLAND AND WALES**  
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

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(Address of principal executive offices)

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(Address of principal executive offices)

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):

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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

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Release Time** IMMEDIATE

**Date** 21 January 2009

**Number** 02/09

**BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

**Record half year production of iron ore and copper cathode.**

**Record half year iron ore shipments.**

**Half year production records at Western Australia Iron Ore, Saraji, Poitrel and Hunter Valley Coal (all Australia), Samarco (Brazil) and Cerrejon Coal (Colombia).**

**Olympic Dam (Australia) achieved a half year record ore hoisted.**

**Record half year and quarterly gas production at North West Shelf (Australia) due to the start up of Train 5 and Angel projects.**

BHP Billiton delivered a robust production performance in the first half of the 2009 financial year. This result was achieved within a challenging environment that resulted in prudent decisions being made regarding production adjustments as well as maintenance being brought forward.

Production adjustments announced by BHP Billiton to date have been limited to Samarco (Brazil) and the Samancor manganese operations. In Western Australia Iron Ore and our metallurgical coal operations, we have received requests for deferrals from some long term contract customers. However, this has not impacted iron ore or metallurgical coal production in the first half of the 2009 financial year. Whilst we sold the deferred long term iron ore tonnages into the spot market, we will likely have to opportunistically adjust our metallurgical coal production in line with the weaker demand, during the second half of the 2009 financial year.

In addition, BHP Billiton separately announced today that it will indefinitely suspend operations at Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation (Australia). Consequently, Yabulu (Australia) will also stop the processing of the mixed nickel cobalt hydroxide product.

The global economic environment deteriorated sharply in the last quarter of the 2008 calendar year and we expect the market to remain weak and uncertain. However, we do expect the longer term fundamentals to remain healthy for our commodities.

BHP Billiton CEO, Marius Kloppers, said the company's performance and market position meant that it was strongly placed for both the current market conditions and the longer term market recovery.

Given the very challenging environment the whole industry has faced over the past few months, our production performance was particularly strong. We have also been quick to take appropriate action to respond to market conditions, such as the previously announced production adjustments and project withdrawals, and we will continue to do so if required.

Our strong balance sheet and uniquely diversified portfolio of high quality and low cost assets place us in a competitive position in these market conditions and we expect to take full advantage of the recovery when it occurs. We continue to invest in growth, but with a highly disciplined and value-focused approach. We also remain alert to potential value accretive acquisition opportunities that may arise in the current market, he said.

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Highlighting our commitment to long term growth, we sanctioned one iron ore and three oil and gas projects during the half year, being Western Australia Iron Ore Rapid Growth Project 5 (RGP5), Bass Strait Turrum (Australia), Angostura Gas Phase II (Trinidad) and North West Shelf Cossack, Wanaea, Lambert, Hermes (CWLH) Life Extension projects.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>PETROLEUM</b>					
Crude Oil, Condensate and Natural Gas Liquids ( 000 bbl)	37,039	18,119	26%	21%	-4%
Natural Gas (bcf)	185.50	90.23	-1%	-1%	-5%
Total Petroleum Products (million boe)	67.96	33.16	12%	10%	-5%

**Total Petroleum Production** Production was higher than the December 2007 half year and quarter mainly driven by the successful delivery of a series of growth projects and continued strong gas sales in Western Australia and Pakistan. This strong growth was achieved despite the continuing impact of two hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico (USA).

**Crude Oil, Condensate, and Natural Gas Liquids** In comparison to the December 2007 half year and quarter, production improved significantly due to the contribution from growth projects. Successful development and infill drilling programs have also helped to offset natural field decline in existing fields.

Production was slightly lower than the September 2008 quarter mainly due to the expected seasonal reduction in demand at Bass Strait (Australia) and hurricane related disruptions at Genghis Khan (USA).

The March 2009 quarter will be impacted by the Bass Strait ethane pipe rupture late in the December 2008 quarter as well as flat production from Atlantis (USA) due to the need to install water injection for reservoir support.

**Natural Gas** Production was 5 per cent lower than the September 2008 quarter due to the expected seasonal demand reduction in Eastern Australia. This was partially offset by the ramp up of North West Shelf Train 5 and first production from North West Shelf Angel.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>					
Alumina ( 000 tonnes)	2,237	1,139	-3%	-2%	4%
Aluminium ( 000 tonnes)	619	310	-8%	-8%	0%

**Alumina** Production improved following the scheduled maintenance at Alumar (Brazil) and Worsley (Australia) during the September 2008 quarter.

**Aluminium** The Southern African smelters continued to operate at reduced levels to comply with the mandatory reduction in power consumption. The December 2008 half year included the complete shutdown of the B and C potlines at Bayside (South Africa).

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>BASE METALS</b>					
Copper ( 000 tonnes)	617.1	308.2	-6%	-11%	0%
Lead (tonnes)	122,215	63,963	-7%	-9%	10%
Zinc (tonnes)	79,631	37,870	22%	36%	-9%
Silver ( 000 ounces)	21,815	11,515	-5%	-3%	12%
Uranium Oxide Concentrate (Uranium) (tonnes)	1,970	860	-7%	-28%	-23%

**Copper** Production was lower than the half year and quarter ended December 2007 due to declining ore grade and electrical motor reliability issues at the Laguna Seca SAG mill at Escondida (Chile).

This was partially offset by the continued ramp up of Spence and Escondida Sulphide Leach (both Chile) and improved performance at Olympic Dam.

At 31 December 2008 the Group had 242,640 tonnes of outstanding copper sales that were revalued at a weighted average price of US\$3,063 per tonne. The final price of these sales will be determined in 2009. In addition, 327,941 tonnes of copper sales were subject to a finalisation adjustment from the prior period. The finalisation adjustment and provisional pricing impact as at 31 December 2008 will decrease earnings<sup>(a)</sup> by US\$1,297 million for the period.

Since 2005, Escondida has executed forward contracts for the physical delivery of copper in order to achieve the average market prices over the relevant quotational periods. Due to the significant fluctuations to copper prices and unplanned interruptions at Escondida, this will decrease earnings<sup>(a)</sup> by US\$333 million for the period.

In the December 2007 quarter, we opportunistically restarted copper sulphide mining at Pinto Valley (USA) to take advantage of the market conditions at the time. This is a short life and high cost operation, and as such is uneconomic in the current environment. During February 2009 we will place the sulphide mining operation on care and maintenance.

**Lead** Production was lower than the half year and quarter ended December 2007 due to lower head grade at Cannington (Australia).

Production was higher than the September 2008 quarter due to increased mill throughput and higher head grade at Cannington.

**Zinc** Production was lower than the September 2008 quarter mainly due to a reduction in head grade as a result of pit development sequencing at Antamina (Peru). The December 2008 half year and quarter were higher than the comparative December 2007 periods due to the processing of a higher proportion of ores containing zinc and higher zinc head grades at Antamina.

**Silver** Production decreased slightly in comparison to the December 2007 half year and quarter mainly due to declining head grades at Cannington and Escondida. Production increased compared to the September 2008 quarter mainly due to improved head grade and mill throughput at Cannington.

**Uranium** Production decreased versus all comparative quarters mainly due to lower mill throughput and lower head grade at Olympic Dam.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>DIAMONDS &amp; SPECIALTY PRODUCTS</b>					
Diamonds ( 000 carats)	1,367	594	-27%	-30%	-23%

**Diamonds** Production decreased due to lower grades following changed ore sources. As Ekati (Canada) transitions from open pit mining to underground mining the mix of ore processed will change from time to time.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS</b>					
Nickel ( 000 tonnes)	77.0	50.2	-6%	15%	87%

**Nickel** Production for the December 2008 half year was lower primarily due to the Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter (Australia) furnace rebuild and maintenance at the Kwinana Nickel Refinery (Australia) in the September 2008 quarter. Following earlier than expected completion of the furnace rebuild, both the smelter and refinery have fully ramped up and were operating at capacity in the December 2008 quarter. The start up of operations at Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation and the Yabulu Extension Project adversely impacted earnings<sup>(a)</sup> by US\$233 million for the half year ended 31 December 2008. This is in addition to the impairment charges for Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation and Yabulu.

In addition, BHP Billiton separately announced today that it will indefinitely suspend operations at Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation. Consequently, Yabulu will stop the processing of the mixed nickel cobalt hydroxide product.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>IRON ORE</b>					
Iron ore ( 000 tonnes) (a)	59,179	29,355	10%	5%	-2%

**Iron Ore** Production for the half year and quarter ended December 2008 benefited from the successful ramp up of growth projects at Western Australia Iron Ore and Samarco. This was in part offset by the impact of the temporary suspension of operations following safety incidents and production interruptions at Western Australia Iron Ore.

Western Australia Iron Ore is expected to produce 130 million tonnes (100 per cent basis) in the 2009 financial year.

At the end of November 2008, in response to weak demand Samarco announced the temporary suspension of two of its three pellet plants to mid-January 2009. Following a subsequent reassessment of the market conditions, the suspension will continue until the end of March 2009, at which time Samarco management will reassess the situation.

Western Australia Iron Ore has deferred some sales to long term contract customers. However, these deferred tonnes have been sold on the spot market.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC 07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>MANGANESE</b>					
Manganese Ore ( 000 tonnes)	3,242	1,412	6%	-12%	-23%
Manganese Alloy ( 000 tonnes)	384	181	-2%	-13%	-11%

**Manganese Ore** Production was higher than the December 2007 half year due to improved mine performance at Hotazel (South Africa) and increased availability of rail and port capacity in South Africa. Production decreased versus the December 2007 and September 2008 quarters in line with previously announced production cuts. Resources at GEMCO (Australia) were utilised for development and re-building product inventories.

**Manganese Alloy** Production was lower than the December 2007 half year and the September 2008 quarter as production cuts were implemented in response to weak demand.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>METALLURGICAL COAL</b>					
Metallurgical Coal ( '000 tonnes)	<b>19,360</b>	<b>10,150</b>	1%	5%	10%

**Metallurgical Coal** Production increased versus all comparative periods due to the full recovery from the flood events in Queensland and planned longwall change out at Illawarra Coal's Appin mine (Australia).

Shipments for the December 2008 quarter were impacted by weaker demand. Queensland Coal has deferred some sales to long term contract customers. Demand for metallurgical coal is expected to be weaker for the second half of the 2009 financial year. As a result, sales for the full year will be slightly lower than in the 2008 financial year. It is likely that BHP Billiton will opportunistically adjust production at its metallurgical coal operations during the second half of the 2009 financial year. This will include re-building depleted above-ground and in-pit inventories, bringing forward necessary maintenance and adjusting the use of workforce at the operations. Production for the second half of the 2009 financial year is expected to be approximately 10 to 15 per cent below current capacity on an annualised basis.

	DEC 2008 HALF	DEC 2008 QTR	DEC H08 vs DEC H07	DEC Q08 vs DEC Q07	DEC Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>ENERGY COAL</b>					
Energy Coal ( '000 tonnes) (c)	<b>35,272</b>	<b>16,476</b>	2%	-6%	-12%

**Energy Coal** Production was lower for the December 2008 quarter due to scheduled outages at Navajo and poor geological conditions at San Juan (both USA). In addition, Douglas Underground (South Africa) production was lower as it ramped down to closure and Cerrejon was impacted by wet weather.

Hunter Valley Coal and Cerrejon Coal achieved half yearly production records.

- (a) Earnings before interest and tax.
- (b) Including Goldsworthy operations classified as continuing operations as at 1 July 2008. Reclassification is consistent with the long term mine production strategy.
- (c) Excluding Optimum operation which was sold effective 1 July 2007.

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

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A member of the BHP Billiton group which is headquartered in Australia



**BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION SUMMARY - CONTINUING OPERATIONS**

		QUARTER ENDED		HALF YEAR ENDED		% CHANGE			
		DEC	SEPT	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	
		2007	2008	2008	2008	2007	H08 Vs DEC H07	Q08 vs DEC Q07	Q08 vs SEPT Q08
<b>PETROLEUM</b>									
Crude oil & condensate	( 000 bbl)	12,317	16,180	<b>16,012</b>	<b>32,192</b>	23,616	36%	30%	-1%
Natural gas	(bcf)	91.21	95.27	<b>90.23</b>	<b>185.50</b>	186.89	-1%	-1%	-5%
Natural gas liquid	( 000 bbl)	2,685	2,740	<b>2,107</b>	<b>4,847</b>	5,780	-16%	-22%	-23%
Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	30.20	34.80	<b>33.16</b>	<b>67.96</b>	60.54	12%	10%	-5%
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>									
Alumina	( 000 tonnes)	1,157	1,098	<b>1,139</b>	<b>2,237</b>	2,310	-3%	-2%	4%
Aluminium	( 000 tonnes)	338	309	<b>310</b>	<b>619</b>	675	-8%	-8%	0%
<b>BASE METALS</b>									
Copper	( 000 tonnes)	348.1	308.9	<b>308.2</b>	<b>617.1</b>	655.9	-6%	-11%	0%
Lead	(tonnes)	70,544	58,252	<b>63,963</b>	<b>122,215</b>	132,065	-7%	-9%	10%
Zinc	(tonnes)	27,807	41,761	<b>37,870</b>	<b>79,631</b>	65,066	22%	36%	-9%
Gold	(ounces)	45,714	41,751	<b>45,790</b>	<b>87,541</b>	86,027	2%	0%	10%
Silver	( 000 ounces)	11,905	10,300	<b>11,515</b>	<b>21,815</b>	23,029	-5%	-3%	12%
Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	1,191	1,110	<b>860</b>	<b>1,970</b>	2,124	-7%	-28%	-23%
Molybdenum	(tonnes)	679	608	<b>411</b>	<b>1,018</b>	1,372	-26%	-40%	-32%
<b>DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS</b>									
Diamonds	( 000 carats)	843	773	<b>594</b>	<b>1,367</b>	1,865	-27%	-30%	-23%
<b>STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS</b>									
Nickel	( 000 tonnes)	43.7	26.8	<b>50.2</b>	<b>77.0</b>	82.3	-6%	15%	87%
<b>IRON ORE</b>									
Iron ore (a)	( 000 tonnes)	27,916	29,824	<b>29,355</b>	<b>59,179</b>	53,917	10%	5%	-2%
<b>MANGANESE</b>									
Manganese ore	( 000 tonnes)	1,613	1,830	<b>1,412</b>	<b>3,242</b>	3,058	6%	-12%	-23%
Manganese alloy	( 000 tonnes)	209	203	<b>181</b>	<b>384</b>	393	-2%	-13%	-11%
<b>METALLURGICAL COAL</b>									
Metallurgical coal	( 000 tonnes)	9,643	9,210	<b>10,150</b>	<b>19,360</b>	19,215	1%	5%	10%
<b>ENERGY COAL</b>									
Energy coal (b)	( 000 tonnes)	17,525	18,796	<b>16,476</b>	<b>35,272</b>	34,459	2%	-6%	-12%

(a) Including Goldsworthy operations classified as continuing operations as at 1 July 2008. Reclassification is consistent with the long term mine production strategy.

(b) Excluding Optimum which was disposed effective 1 July 2007.

Throughout this report figures in italics indicate that this figure has been adjusted since it was previously reported.

**BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION**

	BHP Billiton Interest	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
		DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	
<b>PETROLEUM</b>								
<b>Production</b>								
Crude oil & condensate	( 000 bbl)	12,317	16,240	17,588	16,180	<b>16,012</b>	<b>32,192</b>	23,616
Natural gas	(bcf)	91.21	85.76	95.37	95.27	<b>90.23</b>	<b>185.50</b>	186.89
NGL (a)	( 000 bbl)	2,685	2,201	2,743	2,740	<b>2,107</b>	<b>4,847</b>	5,780
Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	30.20	32.73	36.23	34.80	<b>33.16</b>	<b>67.96</b>	60.54

**ALUMINIUM****ALUMINA****Production ( 000 tonnes)**

Worsley	86%	771	712	768	733	<b>756</b>	<b>1,489</b>	1,555
Suriname	45%	252	247	240	241	<b>242</b>	<b>483</b>	496
Alumar	36%	134	136	141	124	<b>141</b>	<b>265</b>	259
Total		1,157	1,095	1,149	1,098	<b>1,139</b>	<b>2,237</b>	2,310

**ALUMINIUM****Production ( 000 tonnes)**

Hillside	100%	180	167	170	175	<b>176</b>	<b>351</b>	358
Bayside	100%	47	44	29	25	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	95
Alumar	40%	44	45	45	45	<b>44</b>	<b>89</b>	88
Mozal	47%	67	62	61	64	<b>65</b>	<b>129</b>	134
Total		338	318	305	309	<b>310</b>	<b>619</b>	675

**BASE METALS (b)****COPPER****Payable metal in concentrate ( 000 tonnes)**

Escondida	57.5%	177.3	157.0	178.2	116.8	<b>102.7</b>	<b>219.5</b>	344.3
Antamina	33.8%	29.3	24.1	30.8	28.4	<b>28.6</b>	<b>57.0</b>	56.8
Pinto Valley (d)	100%	5.2	9.6	12.0	14.2	<b>14.7</b>	<b>28.9</b>	5.2
Total		211.8	190.7	221.0	159.4	<b>146.0</b>	<b>305.4</b>	406.3

**Cathode ( 000 tonnes)**

Escondida	57.5%	30.3	30.1	40.3	35.6	<b>42.1</b>	<b>77.7</b>	61.2
Cerro Colorado	100%	27.3	28.7	27.3	21.8	<b>26.3</b>	<b>48.1</b>	50.4
Spence (c)	100%	34.2	41.6	43.0	35.7	<b>44.5</b>	<b>80.2</b>	58.1
Pinto Valley (d)	100%	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.6	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	3.5
Olympic Dam	100%	42.8	36.0	57.5	54.8	<b>47.6</b>	<b>102.4</b>	76.4
Total		136.3	138.2	169.7	149.5	<b>162.2</b>	<b>311.7</b>	249.6

**LEAD****Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)**

Cannington	100%	70,369	67,505	52,601	57,768	<b>63,563</b>	<b>121,331</b>	131,442
Antamina	33.8%	175	380	575	484	<b>400</b>	<b>884</b>	623

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Total		70,544	67,885	53,176	58,252	<b>63,963</b>	<b>122,215</b>	132,065
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**ZINC**

**Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)**

Cannington	100%	15,487	13,735	17,244	14,449	<b>14,199</b>	<b>28,648</b>	29,990
Antamina	33.8%	12,320	22,235	26,210	27,312	<b>23,671</b>	<b>50,983</b>	35,076

Total		27,807	35,970	43,454	41,761	<b>37,870</b>	<b>79,631</b>	65,066
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Refer footnotes on page 4.

**BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION**

	BHP Billiton Interest	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
		DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007
<b>BASE METALS (continued)</b>								
<b>GOLD</b>								
<b>Payable metal in concentrate (ounces)</b>								
Escondida	57.5%	21,376	17,660	17,501	14,391	<b>17,840</b>	<b>32,231</b>	44,570
Olympic Dam (refined gold)	100%	24,338	18,555	20,505	27,360	<b>27,950</b>	<b>55,310</b>	41,457
Pinto Valley (d)	100%		1,300					
<b>Total</b>		<b>45,714</b>	<b>37,515</b>	<b>38,006</b>	<b>41,751</b>	<b>45,790</b>	<b>87,541</b>	<b>86,027</b>
<b>SILVER</b>								
<b>Payable metal in concentrate ( 000 ounces)</b>								
Escondida	57.5%	877	790	821	668	<b>738</b>	<b>1,406</b>	1,993
Antamina	33.8%	652	803	994	932	<b>915</b>	<b>1,847</b>	1,708
Cannington	100%	10,124	9,421	7,181	8,391	<b>9,565</b>	<b>17,956</b>	18,883
Olympic Dam (refined silver)	100%	239	169	179	244	<b>234</b>	<b>478</b>	432
Pinto Valley (d)	100%	13	38	62	65	<b>63</b>	<b>129</b>	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,905</b>	<b>11,221</b>	<b>9,236</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>11,515</b>	<b>21,815</b>	<b>23,029</b>
<b>URANIUM OXIDE CONCENTRATE</b>								
<b>Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)</b>								
Olympic Dam	100%	1,191	993	1,027	1,110	<b>860</b>	<b>1,970</b>	2,124
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,191</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>1,970</b>	<b>2,124</b>
<b>MOLYBDENUM</b>								
<b>Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)</b>								
Antamina	33.8%	679	580	590	514	<b>365</b>	<b>879</b>	1,372
Pinto Valley (d)	100%				94	<b>46</b>	<b>139</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>679</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,372</b>
<b>DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS</b>								
<b>DIAMONDS</b>								
<b>Production ( 000 carats)</b>								
Ekati	80%	843	620	864	773	<b>594</b>	<b>1,367</b>	1,865
<b>STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS</b>								
<b>NICKEL</b>								
<b>Production ( 000 tonnes)</b>								
CMSA	99.9%	11.4	7.8	10.1	10.7	<b>13.0</b>	<b>23.7</b>	23.9
Yabulu	100%	6.0	6.2	10.3	9.1	<b>9.5</b>	<b>18.6</b>	11.5
Nickel West	100%	26.3	29.0	22.1	7.0	<b>27.7</b>	<b>34.7</b>	46.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>43.7</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>82.3</b>

Refer footnotes on page 4.

**IRON ORE**

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**Production ( 000 tonnes) (e)**

Mt Newman Joint Venture	85%	8,147	7,265	7,013	7,210	<b>7,006</b>	<b>14,216</b>	16,051
Goldsworthy Joint Venture	85%	170	386	251	232	<b>346</b>	<b>578</b>	304
Area C Joint Venture	85%	6,474	7,114	8,626	9,209	<b>8,716</b>	<b>17,925</b>	11,390
Yandi Joint Venture	85%	9,770	10,061	10,622	8,961	<b>10,026</b>	<b>18,987</b>	19,593
Jimblebar	85%	1,248	1,660	1,054	1,461	<b>1,040</b>	<b>2,501</b>	2,405
Samarco	50%	2,107	1,933	2,357	2,751	<b>2,221</b>	<b>4,972</b>	4,174
<b>Total</b>		<b>27,916</b>	<b>28,419</b>	<b>29,924</b>	<b>29,824</b>	<b>29,355</b>	<b>59,179</b>	<b>53,917</b>

**MANGANESE**

**MANGANESE ORES**

**Saleable production ( 000 tonnes)**

South Africa (f)	60%	709	877	882	929	<b>755</b>	<b>1,684</b>	1,281
Australia (f)	60%	904	789	969	901	<b>657</b>	<b>1,558</b>	1,777
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,613</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>3,242</b>	<b>3,058</b>

**BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION**

	BHP Billiton Interest	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
		DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007
<b>MANGANESE ALLOYS</b>								
<b>Saleable production ( 000 tonnes)</b>								
South Africa (f) (g)	60%	141	125	124	133	<b>112</b>	<b>245</b>	264
Australia (f)	60%	68	67	66	70	<b>69</b>	<b>139</b>	129
Total		209	192	190	203	<b>181</b>	<b>384</b>	393
<b>METALLURGICAL COAL</b>								
<b>Production ( 000 tonnes) (h)</b>								
BMA	50%	6,138	4,232	6,508	6,384	<b>6,781</b>	<b>13,165</b>	12,055
BHP Mitsui Coal (i)	80%	1,526	847	1,306	1,633	<b>1,771</b>	<b>3,404</b>	2,980
Illawarra	100%	1,979	1,767	1,318	1,193	<b>1,598</b>	<b>2,791</b>	4,180
Total		9,643	6,846	9,132	9,210	<b>10,150</b>	<b>19,360</b>	19,215
<b>ENERGY COAL</b>								
<b>Production ( 000 tonnes)</b>								
South Africa	100%	11,277	11,129	10,960	9,009	<b>8,031</b>	<b>17,040</b>	22,983
USA	100%	3,671	2,636	4,834	4,005	<b>3,017</b>	<b>7,022</b>	6,182
Australia	100%	2,959	2,965	2,934	2,975	<b>2,993</b>	<b>5,968</b>	5,877
Colombia	33%	2,702	2,553	2,625	2,807	<b>2,435</b>	<b>5,242</b>	5,190
Total		20,609	19,283	21,353	18,796	<b>16,476</b>	<b>35,272</b>	40,232

- (a) LPG and Ethane are reported as Natural Gas Liquid (NGL). Product-specific conversions are made and NGL is reported in barrels of oil equivalent (boe).
- (b) Metal production is reported on the basis of payable metal.
- (c) Spence operations were commissioned during the December 2006 quarter.
- (d) The Pinto Valley operations were restarted during the December 2007 quarter. During February 2009 the operations will be placed on care and maintenance.
- (e) Iron ore production is reported on a wet tonnes basis.
- (f) Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.
- (g) Production includes Medium Carbon Ferro Manganese.
- (h) Metallurgical coal production is reported on the basis of saleable product. Production figures include some thermal coal.
- (i) Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 80%.

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
	DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007
<b>PETROLEUM</b>							
BHP Billiton attributable production unless otherwise stated.							
<b>CRUDE OIL &amp; CONDENSATE ( 000 barrels)</b>							
Bass Strait	3,103	2,918	3,184	3,412	<b>3,230</b>	<b>6,642</b>	6,741
North West Shelf (a)	2,493	1,912	2,153	2,115	<b>2,434</b>	<b>4,549</b>	5,025
Stybarrow (b)	1,017	2,979	3,527	3,376	<b>2,720</b>	<b>6,096</b>	1,017
Other Australia (c)	260	157	263	206	<b>185</b>	<b>391</b>	510
Atlantis (d)	615	3,320	3,471	2,232	<b>2,319</b>	<b>4,551</b>	615
Shenzi (d)	32	194	322	186		<b>186</b>	32
Trinidad /Tobago	1,103	946	879	705	<b>568</b>	<b>1,273</b>	2,110
Other Americas (e)	961	1,160	1,309	1,561	<b>2,025</b>	<b>3,586</b>	2,013
UK	946	935	836	680	<b>777</b>	<b>1,457</b>	1,869
Algeria	1,709	1,628	1,555	1,624	<b>1,664</b>	<b>3,288</b>	3,539
Pakistan	78	91	88	83	<b>90</b>	<b>173</b>	145
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,317</b>	<b>16,240</b>	<b>17,588</b>	<b>16,180</b>	<b>16,012</b>	<b>32,192</b>	<b>23,616</b>
<b>NATURAL GAS (billion cubic feet) (d)</b>							
Bass Strait	28.41	22.44	33.31	37.08	<b>25.12</b>	<b>62.20</b>	68.18
North West Shelf (a)	28.13	26.43	26.76	27.01	<b>31.79</b>	<b>58.80</b>	55.30
Other Australia (c)	8.21	7.45	6.64	7.33	<b>6.35</b>	<b>13.68</b>	16.17
Atlantis (d)	0.12	1.54	2.07	1.25	<b>1.16</b>	<b>2.41</b>	0.12
Shenzi (d)	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.04		<b>0.04</b>	0.01
Other Americas (e)	2.05	1.95	2.05	1.74	<b>1.68</b>	<b>3.42</b>	4.05
UK	12.70	12.32	11.32	7.51	<b>9.70</b>	<b>17.21</b>	21.57
Pakistan	11.58	13.57	13.14	13.31	<b>14.43</b>	<b>27.74</b>	21.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>91.21</b>	<b>85.76</b>	<b>95.37</b>	<b>95.27</b>	<b>90.23</b>	<b>185.50</b>	<b>186.89</b>
<b>NGL ( 000 barrels)</b>							
Bass Strait	1,801	1,571	2,056	2,149	<b>1,352</b>	<b>3,501</b>	4,128
North West Shelf (a)	417	300	343	364	<b>402</b>	<b>766</b>	855
UK	153	109	116	41	<b>89</b>	<b>130</b>	201
Algeria	314	221	228	186	<b>264</b>	<b>450</b>	596
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>4,847</b>	<b>5,780</b>
<b>TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS</b>	<b>30.20</b>	<b>32.73</b>	<b>36.23</b>	<b>34.80</b>	<b>33.16</b>	<b>67.96</b>	<b>60.54</b>
<b>(million barrels of oil equivalent) (f)</b>							

- (a) North West Shelf LNG Train 5 was commissioned during the September 2008 quarter.
- (b) The Stybarrow operation was commissioned during the December 2007 quarter.
- (c) Other Australia includes Griffin and Minerva.
- (d) The Atlantis and Genghis Khan operations were commissioned during the December 2007 quarter. Genghis Khan is reported in Shenzi.
- (e) Other Americas includes Neptune, Mad Dog, West Cameron 76, Mustang, Genesis and Starlifter. The Neptune operation was commissioned during the September 2008 quarter.
- (f) Total barrels of oil equivalent (boe) conversions are based on 6000scf of natural gas equals 1 boe.





**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
	DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>							
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. ( 000 tonnes)							
<b>ALUMINA</b>							
<b>Production</b>							
Worsley, Australia	771	712	768	733	<b>756</b>	<b>1,489</b>	1,555
Paranam, Suriname	252	247	240	241	<b>242</b>	<b>483</b>	496
Alumar, Brazil	134	136	141	124	<b>141</b>	<b>265</b>	259
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>2,237</b>	2,310
<b>Sales</b>							
Worsley, Australia	803	683	703	781	<b>763</b>	<b>1,544</b>	1,595
Paranam, Suriname	265	246	261	216	<b>252</b>	<b>468</b>	509
Alumar, Brazil	128	135	137	128	<b>140</b>	<b>268</b>	259
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>2,280</b>	2,363
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>							
<b>Production</b>							
Hillside, South Africa	180	167	170	175	<b>176</b>	<b>351</b>	358
Bayside, South Africa	47	44	29	25	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	95
Alumar, Brazil	44	45	45	45	<b>44</b>	<b>89</b>	88
Mozal, Mozambique	67	62	61	64	<b>65</b>	<b>129</b>	134
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>619</b>	675
<b>Sales</b>							
Hillside, South Africa	180	159	183	160	<b>185</b>	<b>345</b>	345
Bayside, South Africa	50	48	29	24	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>	100
Alumar, Brazil	48	43	47	37	<b>50</b>	<b>87</b>	91
Mozal, Mozambique	72	57	73	36	<b>105</b>	<b>141</b>	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>621</b>	664
Tolling Agreement (a)	33	30	34	31	<b>27</b>	<b>58</b>	66
	<b>383</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>679</b>	730

(a) Equity Alumina is converted into Aluminium under a third party tolling agreement. These tonnages are allocated to equity sales.

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

		QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
		DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007	
<b>BASE METALS</b>								
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. Metals production is payable metal unless otherwise stated.								
<b>Escondida, Chile</b>								
Material mined (100%)	( 000 tonnes)	88,319	102,566	103,253	99,375	<b>100,544</b>	<b>199,919</b>	171,314
Sulphide ore milled (100%)	( 000 tonnes)	21,777	22,029	24,491	20,416	<b>22,516</b>	<b>42,932</b>	44,183
Average copper grade	(%)	1.72%	1.56%	1.55%	1.32%	<b>1.04%</b>	<b>1.17%</b>	1.67%
Production ex Mill (100%)	( 000 tonnes)	316.8	285.0	312.7	208.6	<b>186.3</b>	<b>394.9</b>	622.0
<b>Production</b>								
Payable copper	( 000 tonnes)	177.3	157.0	178.2	116.8	<b>102.7</b>	<b>219.5</b>	344.3
Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	21,376	17,660	17,501	14,391	<b>17,840</b>	<b>32,231</b>	44,570
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	30.3	30.1	40.3	35.6	<b>42.1</b>	<b>77.7</b>	61.2
Payable silver concentrate	( 000 ounces)	877	790	821	668	<b>738</b>	<b>1,406</b>	1,993
<b>Sales</b>								
Payable copper	( 000 tonnes)	173.0	160.6	178.4	118.2	<b>93.8</b>	<b>212.0</b>	335.9
Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	21,158	18,190	17,477	14,521	<b>16,377</b>	<b>30,898</b>	44,115
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	23.8	32.3	41.6	31.2	<b>41.8</b>	<b>73.0</b>	55.5
Payable silver concentrate	( 000 ounces)	864	813	820	666	<b>678</b>	<b>1,344</b>	1,953
<b>Cerro Colorado, Chile</b>								
Material mined	( 000 tonnes)	17,798	16,769	17,107	16,526	<b>18,598</b>	<b>35,124</b>	34,893
Ore milled	( 000 tonnes)	4,410	4,437	4,599	4,594	<b>4,379</b>	<b>8,973</b>	8,688
Average copper grade	(%)	1.03%	0.80%	0.85%	0.86%	<b>0.86%</b>	<b>0.86%</b>	0.94%
<b>Production</b>								
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	27.3	28.7	27.3	21.8	<b>26.3</b>	<b>48.1</b>	50.4
<b>Sales</b>								
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	24.5	28.5	29.8	23.7	<b>26.2</b>	<b>49.9</b>	48.0
<b>Spence, Chile (a)</b>								
Material mined	( 000 tonnes)	19,758	20,335	20,065	18,738	<b>20,562</b>	<b>39,300</b>	36,741
Ore milled	( 000 tonnes)	4,333	3,918	4,255	4,490	<b>4,154</b>	<b>8,644</b>	8,465
Average copper grade	(%)	1.61%	1.48%	1.85%	2.18%	<b>1.66%</b>	<b>1.93%</b>	1.59%
<b>Production</b>								
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	34.2	41.6	43.0	35.7	<b>44.5</b>	<b>80.2</b>	58.1
<b>Sales</b>								
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	24.0	39.9	51.3	34.6	<b>43.3</b>	<b>77.9</b>	53.5
(a) Spence operations were commissioned during the December 2006 quarter.								
<b>Antamina, Peru</b>								
Material mined (100%)	( 000 tonnes)	31,289	29,095	29,336	30,026	<b>28,111</b>	<b>58,137</b>	62,434
Sulphide ore milled (100%)	( 000 tonnes)	6,955	6,518	7,729	8,133	<b>8,058</b>	<b>16,191</b>	15,299
<b>Average head grades</b>								
- Copper	(%)	1.47%	1.21%	1.38%	1.15%	<b>1.25%</b>	<b>1.20%</b>	1.30%
- Zinc	(%)	0.69%	1.55%	1.46%	1.54%	<b>1.33%</b>	<b>1.43%</b>	0.95%

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

		QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
		DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007	
<b>Production</b>								
Payable copper	( 000 tonnes)	29.3	24.1	30.8	28.4	<b>28.6</b>	<b>57.0</b>	56.8
Payable zinc	(tonnes)	12,320	22,235	26,210	27,312	<b>23,671</b>	<b>50,983</b>	35,076
Payable silver	( 000 ounces)	652	803	994	932	<b>915</b>	<b>1,847</b>	1,708
Payable lead	(tonnes)	175	380	575	484	<b>400</b>	<b>884</b>	623
Payable molybdenum	(tonnes)	679	580	590	514	<b>365</b>	<b>879</b>	1,372
<b>Sales</b>								
Payable copper	( 000 tonnes)	32.6	20.4	33.5	26.7	<b>29.4</b>	<b>56.1</b>	61.1
Payable zinc	(tonnes)	12,458	16,630	29,385	26,402	<b>27,024</b>	<b>53,426</b>	37,764
Payable silver	( 000 ounces)	719	512	940	719	<b>844</b>	<b>1,563</b>	1,636
Payable lead	(tonnes)	140	261	461	387	<b>518</b>	<b>905</b>	474
Payable molybdenum	(tonnes)	605	531	837	482	<b>398</b>	<b>880</b>	1,267
<b>Cannington, Australia</b>								
Material mined	( 000 tonnes)	808	698	821	724	<b>863</b>	<b>1,587</b>	1,632
Ore milled	( 000 tonnes)	755	726	658	824	<b>817</b>	<b>1,641</b>	1,416
Average head grades								
- Silver	(g/t)	489	472	397	384	<b>438</b>	<b>411</b>	484
- Lead	(%)	10.7%	10.7%	9.2%	8.3%	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	10.5%
- Zinc	(%)	3.3%	3.2%	3.8%	3.0%	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	3.4%
<b>Production</b>								
Payable silver	( 000 ounces)	10,124	9,421	7,181	8,391	<b>9,565</b>	<b>17,956</b>	18,883
Payable lead	(tonnes)	70,369	67,505	52,601	57,768	<b>63,563</b>	<b>121,331</b>	131,442
Payable zinc	(tonnes)	15,487	13,735	17,244	14,449	<b>14,199</b>	<b>28,648</b>	29,990
<b>Sales</b>								
Payable silver	( 000 ounces)	11,266	7,727	8,918	9,507	<b>9,958</b>	<b>19,465</b>	17,991
Payable lead	(tonnes)	78,325	53,167	62,997	64,980	<b>67,467</b>	<b>132,447</b>	124,473
Payable zinc	(tonnes)	19,577	9,629	17,710	16,949	<b>10,990</b>	<b>27,939</b>	28,834
<b>Olympic Dam, Australia</b>								
Material mined (a)	( 000 tonnes)	2,520	2,333	2,397	2,628	<b>2,419</b>	<b>5,047</b>	4,944
Ore milled	( 000 tonnes)	2,552	2,225	2,570	2,518	<b>2,456</b>	<b>4,974</b>	4,791
Average copper grade	(%)	1.86%	1.86%	2.06%	2.08%	<b>1.80%</b>	<b>1.94%</b>	1.85%
Average uranium grade	kg/t	0.63	0.59	0.58	0.56	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.53</b>	0.60
<b>Production</b>								
Copper cathode (ER)	( 000 tonnes)	40.2	32.9	53.2	51.9	<b>44.6</b>	<b>96.5</b>	70.8
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	2.6	3.1	4.4	2.9	<b>3.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	5.6
Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	1,191	993	1,027	1,110	<b>860</b>	<b>1,970</b>	2,124
Refined gold	(fine ounces)	24,338	18,555	20,505	27,360	<b>27,950</b>	<b>55,310</b>	41,457
Refined silver	( 000 ounces)	239	169	179	244	<b>234</b>	<b>478</b>	432

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

		QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
		DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	
<b>Sales</b>								
Copper cathode (ER)	( 000 tonnes)	41.0	31.9	52.0	49.5	<b>48.3</b>	<b>97.8</b>	71.7
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	2.5	2.3	4.3	3.3	<b>2.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	5.6
Uranium oxide concentrate	(tonnes)	346	1,182	1,610	868	<b>1,262</b>	<b>2,130</b>	908
Refined gold	(fine ounces)	21,760	19,767	19,556	26,121	<b>26,383</b>	<b>52,504</b>	41,878
Refined silver	( 000 ounces)	237	173	185	232	<b>250</b>	<b>482</b>	429

(a) Material mined refers to run of mine ore mined and hoisted.

**Pinto Valley, USA**

<b>Production</b>								
Copper concentrate (a)	( 000 tonnes)	5.2	9.6	12.0	14.2	<b>14.7</b>	<b>28.9</b>	5.2
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.6	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	3.5
Payable silver (a)	( 000 ounces)	13.3	38.4	61.7	65.2	<b>63.3</b>	<b>128.5</b>	13.3
Payable gold (a)	( 000 ounces)		1.3					
Payable molybdenum	(tonnes)				93.7	<b>45.6</b>	<b>139.3</b>	
<b>Sales</b>								
Copper concentrate	( 000 tonnes)	2.6	7.9	12.4	14.0	<b>13.0</b>	<b>27.0</b>	2.6
Copper cathode (EW)	( 000 tonnes)	0.9	4.0	1.4	1.6	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	1.8
Payable silver	( 000 ounces)	13.3	38.4	61.7	65.2	<b>63.3</b>	<b>128.5</b>	13.3
Payable gold	( 000 ounces)		1.3					
Payable molybdenum	(tonnes)				15.0	<b>44.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	

(a) Production restarted during the December 2007 quarter. During February 2009 the operations will be placed on care and maintenance.

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

		QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
		DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	
<b>DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS</b>								
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.								
<b>DIAMONDS</b>								
<b><u>Ekati , Canada</u></b>								
Ore Processed (100%)	( 000 tonnes)	1,080	967	1,356	1,192	<b>910</b>	<b>2,102</b>	2,089
Production	( 000 carats)	843	620	864	773	<b>594</b>	<b>1,367</b>	1,865

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
	DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007
<b>STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS</b>							
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. ( '000 tonnes)							
<b>NICKEL</b>							
<b><u>CMSA, Colombia</u></b>							
<b>Production</b>	11.4	7.8	10.1	10.7	<b>13.0</b>	<b>23.7</b>	23.9
<b>Sales</b>	13.2	13.6	8.2	10.7	<b>11.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>	20.1
<b><u>Yabulu, Australia (a)</u></b>							
<b>Production</b>							
Nickel metal	6.0	6.2	10.3	9.1	<b>9.5</b>	<b>18.6</b>	11.5
Cobalt	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	0.9
<b>Sales</b>							
Nickel metal	6.3	6.5	9.7	7.2	<b>9.4</b>	<b>16.6</b>	11.6
Cobalt	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	0.9
<b><u>Nickel West, Australia</u></b>							
<b>Production</b>							
Nickel contained in concentrate	1.2	1.3	2.8	6.4	<b>5.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	1.2
Nickel contained in finished matte	8.5	10.3	4.9	0.6	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>	12.4
Nickel metal	16.6	17.4	14.5		<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	33.3
Nickel production	26.3	29.0	22.1	7.0	<b>27.7</b>	<b>34.7</b>	46.9
<b>Sales</b>							
Nickel contained in concentrate	0.9	0.6	3.8	6.1	<b>5.6</b>	<b>11.7</b>	0.9
Nickel contained in finished matte	9.5	9.4	7.2		<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.2</b>	15.7
Nickel metal	14.4	15.7	20.7	4.7	<b>6.6</b>	<b>11.3</b>	29.1
Nickel sales	24.8	25.7	31.7	10.8	<b>22.4</b>	<b>33.2</b>	45.7

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
	DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007
<b>IRON ORE</b>							
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. ( 000 tonnes)							
<b>IRON ORE (a)</b>							
<b><u>Pilbara, Australia</u></b>							
<b>Production</b>							
Mt Newman Joint Venture	8,147	7,265	7,013	7,210	<b>7,006</b>	<b>14,216</b>	16,051
Goldsworthy Joint Venture	170	386	251	232	<b>346</b>	<b>578</b>	304
Area C Joint Venture	6,474	7,114	8,626	9,209	<b>8,716</b>	<b>17,925</b>	11,390
Yandi Joint Venture	9,770	10,061	10,622	8,961	<b>10,026</b>	<b>18,987</b>	19,593
Jimblebar	1,248	1,660	1,054	1,461	<b>1,040</b>	<b>2,501</b>	2,405
Total (BHP Billiton share)	25,809	26,486	27,567	27,073	<b>27,134</b>	<b>54,207</b>	49,743
Total production (100%)	30,363	31,160	32,432	31,851	<b>31,922</b>	<b>63,773</b>	58,522
<b>Shipments</b>							
Lump	7,179	7,603	8,282	9,172	<b>7,598</b>	<b>16,770</b>	13,255
Fines	18,847	19,714	19,881	19,013	<b>18,917</b>	<b>37,930</b>	36,826
Total (BHP Billiton share)	26,026	27,317	28,164	28,185	<b>26,515</b>	<b>54,700</b>	50,081
Total sales (100%)	30,619	32,138	33,134	33,159	<b>31,194</b>	<b>64,353</b>	58,919
<b><u>Samarco, Brazil</u></b>							
<b>Production</b>	2,107	1,933	2,357	2,751	<b>2,221</b>	<b>4,972</b>	4,174
<b>Shipments</b>	2,316	1,589	2,234	2,836	<b>1,808</b>	<b>4,644</b>	4,166

(a) Iron ore production and shipments are reported on a wet tonnes basis.

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
	DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2007
<b>MANGANESE</b>							
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. ( 000 tonnes)							
<b>MANGANESE ORE</b>							
<b><u>South Africa</u></b>							
Saleable production (a)	709	877	882	929	<b>755</b>	<b>1,684</b>	1,281
<b><u>Australia</u></b>							
Saleable production (a)	904	789	969	901	<b>657</b>	<b>1,558</b>	1,777
<b>MANGANESE ALLOY</b>							
<b><u>South Africa</u></b>							

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<b>Saleable production (a) (b)</b>	141	125	124	133	<b>112</b>	<b>245</b>	264
<b>Australia</b>							
<b>Saleable production (a)</b>	68	67	66	70	<b>69</b>	<b>139</b>	129

- (a) Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.  
(b) Production includes Medium Carbon Ferro Manganese.

**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
	DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	
<b>METALLURGICAL COAL</b>							
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. ( 000 tonnes)							
<b>METALLURGICAL COAL (a)</b>							
<b>Queensland, Australia</b>							
<b>Production</b>							
<b>BMA</b>							
Blackwater	1,370	1,345	1,510	1,457	<b>1,239</b>	<b>2,696</b>	2,777
Goonyella	1,505	1,117	1,737	1,699	<b>1,915</b>	<b>3,614</b>	3,182
Peak Downs	1,243	849	1,121	914	<b>1,103</b>	<b>2,017</b>	2,124
Saraji	890	376	853	1,104	<b>1,027</b>	<b>2,131</b>	1,667
Norwich Park	576	306	642	439	<b>605</b>	<b>1,044</b>	1,078
Gregory Joint Venture	554	239	644	771	<b>892</b>	<b>1,663</b>	1,227
<b>BMA total</b>	<b>6,138</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>6,508</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>13,165</b>	12,055
<b>BHP Mitsui Coal (b)</b>							
South Walker Creek	868	438	617	1,049	<b>943</b>	<b>1,992</b>	1,807
Poitrel	658	409	688	584	<b>828</b>	<b>1,412</b>	1,173
<b>BHP Mitsui Coal total</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>3,404</b>	2,980
<b>Queensland total</b>	<b>7,664</b>	<b>5,079</b>	<b>7,814</b>	<b>8,017</b>	<b>8,552</b>	<b>16,569</b>	15,035
<b>Shipments</b>							
Coking coal	5,875	3,790	5,275	5,923	<b>5,590</b>	<b>11,513</b>	11,354
Weak coking coal	1,966	1,726	1,442	1,961	<b>1,547</b>	<b>3,508</b>	3,634
Thermal coal	328	497	491	462	<b>297</b>	<b>759</b>	844
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,169</b>	<b>6,013</b>	<b>7,207</b>	<b>8,346</b>	<b>7,434</b>	<b>15,780</b>	15,832
<b>Illawarra, Australia</b>							
<b>Production</b>							
	1,979	1,767	1,318	1,193	<b>1,598</b>	<b>2,791</b>	4,180
<b>Shipments</b>							
Coking coal	1,851	1,549	1,097	895	<b>1,195</b>	<b>2,090</b>	3,757
Thermal coal	290	194	157	160	<b>166</b>	<b>326</b>	489
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,141</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>2,416</b>	4,246

(a) Metallurgical coal production is reported on the basis of saleable product. Production figures include some thermal coal.

(b) Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 80%.



**PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT**

	QUARTER ENDED				HALF YEAR ENDED		
	DEC 2007	MAR 2008	JUNE 2008	SEPT 2008	DEC 2008	DEC 2008	
<b>ENERGY COAL</b>							
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. ( 000 tonnes)							
<b>South Africa (a)</b>							
<b>Production</b>	11,277	11,129	10,960	9,009	<b>8,031</b>	<b>17,040</b>	22,983
<b>Sales</b>							
Export	4,269	3,119	3,989	2,329	<b>2,945</b>	<b>5,274</b>	8,476
Local utility	7,351	7,430	7,381	7,066	<b>6,212</b>	<b>13,278</b>	14,414
Inland	209	190	487	376	<b>123</b>	<b>499</b>	597
<b>Total</b>	11,829	10,739	11,857	9,771	<b>9,280</b>	<b>19,051</b>	23,487
<b>New Mexico, USA</b>							
<b>Production</b>							
Navajo Coal	1,899	1,800	2,286	2,064	<b>1,923</b>	<b>3,987</b>	3,447
San Juan Coal	1,772	836	2,548	1,941	<b>1,094</b>	<b>3,035</b>	2,735
<b>Total</b>	3,671	2,636	4,834	4,005	<b>3,017</b>	<b>7,022</b>	6,182
<b>Sales local utility</b>	3,254	2,573	3,207	3,660	<b>3,605</b>	<b>7,265</b>	6,947
<b>Hunter Valley, Australia</b>							
<b>Production</b>	2,959	2,965	2,934	2,975	<b>2,993</b>	<b>5,968</b>	5,877
<b>Sales</b>							
Export	1,892	1,842	2,549	1,849	<b>2,242</b>	<b>4,091</b>	3,315
Inland	985	791	512	946	<b>650</b>	<b>1,596</b>	2,164
<b>Total</b>	2,877	2,633	3,061	2,795	<b>2,892</b>	<b>5,687</b>	5,479
<b>Cerrejon Coal, Colombia</b>							
<b>Production</b>	2,702	2,553	2,625	2,807	<b>2,435</b>	<b>5,242</b>	5,190
<b>Sales export</b>	2,334	2,534	2,547	2,593	<b>2,829</b>	<b>5,422</b>	5,095

(a) Comparative periods include production from the South African Optimum operations, which was sold effective from 1 July 2007

**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.

BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: 21 January 2009

By: /s/ Jane McAloon  
Name: Jane McAloon  
Title: Group Company Secretary