

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
March 04, 2016

**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**  
**March 3, 2016**

**BHP BILLITON LIMITED**

**(ABN 49 004 028 077)**

**(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)**

**VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

**(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)**

**171 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE,**

**VICTORIA 3000 AUSTRALIA**

**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**BHP BILLITON PLC**

**(REG. NO. 3196209)**

**(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its  
charter)**

**ENGLAND AND WALES**

**(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)**

**NEATHOUSE PLACE, LONDON,**

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**(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 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

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Release Time** IMMEDIATE<sup>1</sup>

**Date** 3 March 2016

**Release Number** 8/16

**MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE REVIEW OF BHP BILLITON'S CREDIT RATING**

BHP Billiton notes the announcement today, 3 March 2016, by Moody's Investors Service that it has lowered the credit ratings of BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc from A1 to A3 negative outlook.

The rating on BHP Billiton's senior unsecured medium term note program has been lowered from (P)A1 to (P)A3. The subordinated note ratings of BHP Billiton Finance (USA) Limited and BHP Billiton Finance Limited have been lowered from A3 to Baa2.

BHP Billiton remains committed to maintaining its strong balance sheet through the cycle.

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

<sup>1</sup> This release was made outside the hours of operation of the ASX market announcements office.

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Registered in Australia  
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Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is

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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.

BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: March 3, 2016

By: /s/ Geof Stapledon  
Name: Geof Stapledon  
Title: Company Secretary