

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
July 25, 2007

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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

June 19, 2007

**BHP BILLITON LIMITED**

**(ABN 49 004 028 077)**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

**180 LONSDALE 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, VICTORIA, LONDON,**

**UNITED KINGDOM**

(Address of principal executive offices)

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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

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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)(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 [x] No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

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19 June 2007  
Number 18/07

JOHN FAST TO RETIRE FROM BHP BILLITON

BHP Billiton announced today that Chief Legal Counsel and Head of External Affairs, John Fast, would retire from the Company early in the new financial year.

Mr Fast, who joined BHP in late 1999, said he had enjoyed his period with the Company immensely and was looking forward to applying the experience he had gained to new challenges. "This is a great company and I have enjoyed being part of its tremendous success and growth over the last seven years", he said.

Chief Executive Officer, Chip Goodyear, said that John had made a significant contribution through the execution of best practice across the Company's legal, government and asset protection functions and by providing his wise counsel on many important issues and strategic transactions. He thanked him for his commitment over the years. "John has been a valued member of my senior executive team and I wish him well in his future career," he said.

An announcement about Mr Fast's replacement will be made in due course. Until that time, Peter De Zwart, Regional Counsel Americas, will assume the responsibilities of the role.

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

**Australia**

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**BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077**

Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
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**BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209**

Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH  
United Kingdom  
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**The BHP Billiton Group 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.

BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: 19 June 2007

By: Karen Wood

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Name: Karen Wood  
Title: Group Company Secretary