

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
February 09, 2017

**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**  
**February 9, 2017**

**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

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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    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** 9 February 2017

**Release Number** 3/17

**BHP BILLITON APPROVES INVESTMENT IN MAD DOG PHASE 2 PROJECT**

BHP Billiton today announced that the Board has approved expenditure of US\$2.2 billion for its share of the development of the Mad Dog Phase 2 project in the Gulf of Mexico.

BHP Billiton holds a 23.9 per cent participating interest in the Mad Dog field. BP, the operator, holds a 60.5 per cent participating interest, and Union Oil Company of California, an affiliate of Chevron U.S.A. Inc., holds the remaining 15.6 per cent participating interest. During the fourth quarter of 2016, BP sanctioned the Mad Dog Phase 2 project.

Mad Dog Phase 2, located in the Green Canyon area in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico, is a southern and southwestern extension of the existing Mad Dog field. The project includes a new floating production facility with the capacity to produce up to 140,000 gross barrels of crude oil per day from up to 14 production wells. Production is expected to begin in the 2022 financial year.

Steve Pastor, BHP Billiton President Operations Petroleum, said Mad Dog Phase 2 is one of the largest, discovered and undeveloped resources in the Gulf of Mexico, one of BHP Billiton's preferred conventional deep-water basins. It offers an attractive investment opportunity for BHP Billiton and aligns with our strategic objective to build our conventional portfolio through the development of large, long-life, high-quality resources.

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

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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

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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.

BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: February 9, 2017

By: /s/ Rachel Agnew  
Name: Rachel Agnew  
Title: Company Secretary