

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
October 26, 2010

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

October 25, 2010

<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-

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time IMMEDIATE
Date 14 October 2010
Number 26/10

RESPONSE TO GERMAN FEDERAL CARTEL OFFICE (BUNDESKARTELLAMT) ANNOUNCEMENT

BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto have noted with disappointment the statement today by the German Federal Cartel Office (FCO) that its current intention is to prohibit the companies' proposed iron ore production joint venture in Western Australia.

The German regulatory process continues and the parties are expecting to receive a formal notification next week.

The parties continue to believe that the joint venture is pro-competitive and will increase the supply of iron ore. However, both BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto acknowledge the concerns expressed by some regulators and the obstacles to achieving clearance for the joint venture.

No decisions about next steps have been taken at this stage while regulatory discussions continue.

BHP Billiton Media & Investor Relations

Australia

Amanda Buckley, Media Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 2209 Mobile: +61 419 801 349
email: Amanda.Buckley@bhpbilliton.com

Kelly Quirke, Media Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 2896 Mobile: +61 429 966 312
Email: Kelly.Quirke@bhpbilliton.com

Fiona Martin, Media Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 2211
email: Fiona.Martin2@bhpbilliton.com

Brendan Harris, Investor Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 4323 Mobile: +61 437 134 814
email: Brendan.Harris@bhpbilliton.com

Leng Lau, Investor Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 4202 Mobile: +61 403 533 706

email: Leng.Y.Lau@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom & South Africa

Andre Liebenberg, Investor Relations

Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7920 236 974

email: Andre.Liebenberg@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom & United States

Ruban Yogarajah, Media Relations

Tel: US +1 713 966 2907 or UK +44 20 7802 4033

Mobile: UK +44 7827 082 022

email: Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com

United States

Scott Espenshade, Investor Relations

Tel: +1 713 599 6431 Mobile: +1 713 208 8565

email: Scott.Espenshade@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia

Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in England and Wales

Registered Office: Neathouse Place

London SW1V 1BH United Kingdom

Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

Members of the BHP Billiton group which is headquartered in Australia

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

Rio Tinto Media & Investor Relations

Australia

David Luff, Media Relations

Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3620 Mobile: +61 (0) 0419 850 205

Karen Halbert, Media Relations

Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3627 Mobile: +61 (0) 412 119 389

Bruce Tobin, Media Relations

Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3612 Mobile: +61 (0) 419 103 454

Dave Skinner, Investor Relations

Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3628 Mobile: +61 (0) 408 335 309

Simon Ellinor, Investor Relations

Office: +61 (0) 7 3361 4365 Mobile: +61 (0) 439 102 811

United Kingdom

Christina Mills, Media Relations

Office: +44 (0) 20 8080 1306 Mobile: +44 (0) 7825 275 605

Tony Shaffer, Media Relations

Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1138 Mobile: +44 (0) 7920 041 003

David Ovington, Investor Relations

Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 2051 Mobile: +44 (0) 7920 010 978

Mark Shannon, Investor Relations

Office: +44 (0) 20 7781 1178 Mobile: +44 (0) 7917 576597

United States

Jason Combes, Investor Relations

Office: +1 (0) 801 204 2919 Mobile: +1 (0) 801 558 2645

Canada

Bryan Tucker, Media Relations

Office: +1 (0) 514 848 8151 Mobile: +1 (0) 514 825 8319

Rio Tinto Limited

120 Collins Street

Melbourne 3000

Australia

T +61 (0) 3 9283 3333

F +61 (0) 3 9283 3707

Registered in Australia ABN 96 004 458 404

Rio Tinto plc

2 Eastbourne Terrace

London W2 6LG

United Kingdom

T +44 (0) 20 7781 2000

F +44 (0) 20 7781 1800

Email: questions@riotinto.com

Website: www.riotinto.com

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.

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Date : October 25, 2010

BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077)

By: /s/ Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon

Title: Group Company Secretary