

BHP BILLITON PLC  
Form 6-K  
July 30, 2004

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF

THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Date of

28 July 2004

BHP Billiton Plc

Registration Number 3196209

Neathouse Place

London SW1V 1BH

United Kingdom

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Form 40-F	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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	<input type="checkbox"/>		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):

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Date 28 July 2004

Number 24/04

BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED  
30 JUNE 2004

BHP Billiton today released its production report for the quarter ended 30 June 2004. Unless otherwise stated, production volumes refer to BHP Billiton share.

During the 2004 financial year, annual production records were set for a number of commodities supported by strong demand, including:

- **Iron ore production of 84.2 million tonnes.**
- **Manganese ore production of 5.0 (100% basis) million tonnes.**
- **Aluminium production of 1.3 million tonnes.**
- **Alumina production of 4.2 million tonnes.**
- **Silver production of 43.7 million ounces.**
- **Nickel production of 82 thousand tonnes.**
- **Diamonds production of 5.5 million carats and plant throughput of 4.4 (100% basis) million tonnes.**
- **Natural gas production of 324.3 billion cubic (54 million barrels of oil equivalent).**

- Total Petroleum Products -

Total production for the year ended June 2004 was 122.5 million barrels of oil equivalent. Total production for the June 2004 quarter was 30.3 million barrels of oil equivalent, in line with the June 2003 quarter and two per cent higher than the March 2004 quarter.

- ◆ Oil and Condensate - Production for the June 2004 quarter was 13.3 million barrels, 15 per cent lower than the 15.6 million barrels produced in the June 2003 quarter. This was mainly due to natural field decline in Bass Strait (Australia), Liverpool Bay (UK), Laminaria (Australia), North West Shelf (Australia) and Griffin (Australia). Production was also impacted by an unplanned shutdown at Bass Strait, a pre-cyclone shutdown at the North West Shelf and the divestment in February 2004 of our producing assets in Bolivia. This was partly offset by new production resulting from the commissioning of Ohanet (Algeria) in October 2003 and Boris North (USA) in September 2003. Production was seven per cent lower than the 14.3 million barrels produced in the March 2004 quarter, reflecting natural decline across the portfolio, the shutdowns at North West Shelf and Bass Strait and the divestment of our producing assets in Bolivia. Production at Ohanet was lower due to our risk sharing contractual agreement whereby higher realised prices result in lower production entitlement.
- ◆ Natural Gas - Production for the June 2004 quarter was 85.1 billion cubic feet, 17 per cent higher than the 72.9 billion cubic feet produced in the June 2003 quarter. This was due to increased demand from Bass Strait and production from the Zamzama Phase 1 development (Pakistan) which was commissioned in September 2003. Production for the quarter was 11 per cent higher than the 76.5 billion cubic feet produced in the March 2004 quarter mainly due to the increased demand from Bass Strait and cyclone downtime at North West Shelf and Griffin in the previous quarter. This was partly offset by planned shutdowns at Bruce (UK) and a fall in demand at Liverpool Bay due to seasonal factors.

- **Alumina -**

Production for the June 2004 quarter of 1.1 million tonnes was in line with the June 2003 quarter. Increased production at Alumar (Brazil) due to scheduled maintenance occurring in the June 2003 quarter was offset by lower current quarter production at Worsley (Australia) due to processing of stockpiled hydrate in the June 2003 quarter. Production was in line with the March 2004 quarter.

- **Aluminium**

- Production for the June 2004 quarter was equal to the March 2004 quarterly production record of 333,000 tonnes, but 22 per cent higher than the June 2003 quarter. The increase mainly reflects the ramp up of production from the Mozal 2 (Mozambique) and Hillside 3 (South Africa) expansions, which reached full commissioning in August 2003 and December 2003 respectively.

- **Copper -**

Production for the June 2004 quarter was 272,600 tonnes, 19 per cent higher than the June 2003 quarter. This mainly reflects higher production at Escondida (Chile) and Tintaya (Peru), partly offset by sale of the Group's interest in Highland Valley Copper (Canada) in January 2004. Production was 13 per cent higher than the March 2004 quarter due to increased production at Escondida. Production records were achieved at Escondida for the June 2004 quarter and for the year ending June 2004.

- **Silver -**

Production for the June 2004 quarter of 11.1 million ounces was 15 per cent higher than the June 2003 quarter. This was due to improved mill throughput at Cannington (Australia) resulting from a continuing debottlenecking program. Production was 8 per cent lower than the March 2004 quarter mainly due to lower ore grade at Cannington.

- **Iron Ore -**

Total iron ore production for the June 2004 quarter was 20.5 million tonnes, slightly lower than the March 2004 quarter and six per cent higher than the June 2003 quarter. The increase reflects strong customer demand for iron ore products along with additional capacity following the completion of the Area C, Products and Capacity Expansion and Accelerated Expansion projects at Western Australia.

- **Metallurgical Coal -**

Total metallurgical coal production for the June 2004 quarter was 9.3 million tonnes in line with the June 2003 quarter. Production was nine per cent higher than the March 2004 quarter reflecting continued strong market demand for Queensland Coal (Australia) product, partly offset by lower production from Illawarra Coal (Australia), largely due to difficult mining conditions at the West Cliff colliery. Production records were achieved at Queensland Coal for the June 2004 quarter and the year ending June 2004.

- **Manganese -**

Ore production for the June 2004 quarter of 1.3 million tonnes was 26 per cent higher than the June 2003 quarter and six per cent higher than the March 2004 quarter. This reflects strong customer demand in all markets, particularly Japan, Europe and China and our ability to flex production to meet additional market demand.

- **Hot briquetted iron -**

Production for the June 2004 quarter of 294,000 tonnes was 36 per cent lower than the June 2003 quarter and 26 per cent lower than the March 2004 quarter. This reflects the suspension of operations at the Boodarie Iron plant (Australia) following a gas explosion in May 2004. Production was immediately suspended and a number of investigations into the incident are continuing.

• **Diamonds -**

Production of 1.2 million carats at Ekati was seven per cent lower than the June 2003 quarter and 19 per cent higher than the March 2004 quarter. This was due to variations in ore grade. While ore grade is lower than the June 2003 quarter, resumed mining of a high grade zone in the Koala pipe has seen grades improve compared with the March 2004 quarter.

• **Energy Coal -**

Production for the June 2004 quarter was 21.5 million tonnes, in line with the June 2003 quarter. Lower production at New Mexico Coal (USA) following two planned major dragline outages at the Navajo mine was partially offset by the ramp up of production at Mount Arthur Coal (Australia). Production was also in line with the March 2004 quarter where increased production from the Mount Arthur Coal ramp up was partially offset by lower production at New Mexico Coal San Juan mine following a longwall move in the June 2004 quarter. Annual export sales from Ingwe (South Africa) decreased to 39 per cent of total sales compared with 43 per cent in the June 2003 year. This predominantly reflects lower export tonnage availability following safety interventions at Koorfontein.

• **Nickel**

- Production for the June 2004 quarter was 19,900 tonnes, five per cent lower than the June 2003 quarter and six per cent lower than the March 2004 quarter. This mainly reflects scheduled maintenance at Yabulu in the June 2004 quarter, and conversion of work in process inventories to finished goods in the March 2004 and June 2003 quarters.

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

**Australia**

Jane Belcher, Investor Relations  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3952 Mobile: +61 417 031 653  
email: Jane.H.Belcher@bhpbilliton.com

Tania Price, Media Relations  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3815 Mobile: +61 419 152 780  
email: Tania.Price@bhpbilliton.com

**United States**

Francis McAllister, Investor Relations  
Tel: +1 713 961 8625 Mobile: +1 713 480 3699  
email: Francis.R.McAllister@bhpbilliton.com

**United Kingdom**

Mark Lidiard, Investor & Media Relations  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4156  
email: Mark.Lidiard@bhpbilliton.com

Ariane Gentil, Media Relations  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4177 Mobile: +44 78 81 51 8715  
email: Ariane.Gentil@bhpbilliton.com

**South Africa**

Michael Campbell, Investor & Media Relations  
Tel: +27 11 376 3360 Mobile: +27 82 458 2587  
email: Michael.J.Campbell@bhpbilliton.com

BHP BILLITON PRODUCTION SUMMARY			QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED		% CHANGE			
			JUNE	MARCH	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE	JUN Q04	JUN Q04	YTD 04	
			2003	2004	2004	2004	2003	vs	vs	vs	
								JUN Q03	MAR Q04	YTD 03	
<b>PETROLEUM</b>											
Crude oil & condensate	('000 bbl)		15,635	14,341	13,297		58,027	65,893	-15%	-7%	-12%
Natural gas	(bcf)		72.91	76.47	85.11		324.34	281.17	17%	11%	15%
LPG	('000 tonnes)		205.57	217.83	235.86		853.53	743.12	15%	8%	15%
Ethane	('000 tonnes)		24.97	16.59	25.14		94.30	94.90	1%	52%	-1%
Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)		30.3	29.8	30.3		122.5	121.8	0%	2%	1%
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>											
Alumina	('000 tonnes)		1,060	1,062	1,059		4,224	4,092	0%	0%	3%
Aluminium	('000 tonnes)		273	333	333		1,256	1,074	22%	0%	17%
<b>BASE METALS</b>											
Copper	('000 tonnes)		229.2	240.6	272.6		954.4	870.5	19%	13%	10%
Lead	(tonnes)		59,389	70,838	64,472		249,885	240,042	9%	-9%	4%
Zinc	(tonnes)		54,396	35,194	29,038		159,238	193,808	-47%	-17%	-18%
Gold	(ounces)		25,752	32,914	31,145		125,314	207,882	21%	-5%	-40%
Silver	('000 ounces)		9,643	12,064	11,053		43,692	41,128	15%	-8%	6%
Molybdenum	(tonnes)		301	81	240		936	1,352	-20%	195%	-31%
<b>CARBON STEEL MATERIALS</b>											
Iron ore	('000 tonnes)		19,420	21,085	20,537		84,220	73,732	6%	-3%	14%
Metallurgical coal	('000 tonnes)		9,026	8,532	9,284		35,360	34,622	3%	9%	2%

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	Manganese ores	('000 tonnes)	1,058	1,264	1,337		4,953	4,102	26%	6%	21%
	Manganese alloys	('000 tonnes)	195	179	203		712	737	4%	13%	-3%
	Hot briquetted iron	('000 tonnes)	458	399	294		1,716	1,670	-36%	-26%	3%
<b>DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS</b>											
	Diamonds	('000 carats)	1,300	1,015	1,211		5,482	4,340	-7%	19%	26%
<b>ENERGY COAL</b>											
	Energy coal	('000 tonnes)	21,991	21,279	21,494		83,885	81,703	-2%	1%	3%
<b>STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS</b>											
	Nickel	('000 tonnes)	21.0	21.2	19.9		81.7	78.1	-5%	-6%	5%
	Ferrochrome	('000 tonnes)	259	266	264		1,026	990	2%	-1%	4%
Throughout this report figures in italics indicate adjustments made since the figure was previously reported.											

<b>BHP BILLITON ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION</b>			QUARTER ENDED					YEAR ENDED	
	BHP Billiton	Interest	JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE
			2003	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003
<b>PETROLEUM</b>									
Production									
	Crude oil & condensate	(000 bbl)	15,635	15,512	14,877	14,341	13,297	58,027	65,893
	Natural gas	(bcf)	72.91	85.19	77.57	76.47	85.11	324.34	281.17
	LPG	('000 tonnes)	205.57	199.33	200.51	217.83	235.86	853.53	743.12
	Ethane	('000 tonnes)	24.97	27.32	25.25	16.59	25.14	94.30	94.90

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	Total Petroleum Products	(million boe)	30.3	32.1	30.2	29.8	30.3		122.5	121.8
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>										
ALUMINA										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	Worsley	86%	724	699	700	704	696		2,799	2,742
	Suriname	45%	223	227	230	228	233		918	879
	Alumar	36%	113	127	120	130	130		507	471
	Total		1,060	1,053	1,050	1,062	1,059		4,224	4,092
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	Hillside	100%	132	135	151	169	167		622	534
	Bayside	100%	46	47	46	45	46		184	185
	Alumar	46.3%	45	31	36	44	45		156	178
	Valesul	45.5%	11	11	11	11	11		44	43
	Mozal	47%	39	58	64	64	64		250	134
	Total		273	282	308	333	333		1,256	1,074
<b>BASE METALS (a)</b>										
COPPER										
Payable metal in concentrate ('000 tonnes)										
	Escondida (b)	57.5%	126.6	115.9	109.1	130.8	159.1		514.9	419.1
	Tintaya (c)	100%	-	-	15.0	22.9	19.6		57.5	-
	Antamina	33.8%	21.2	16.9	20.5	24.6	29.9		91.9	96.9
	Alumbrera (d)	25%	-	-	-	-	-		-	34.4
	Highland Valley Copper (e)	33.6%	13.8	14.1	14.2	-	-		28.3	56.2
	Selbaie (f)	100%	1.8	1.6	1.8	0.8	-		4.1	8.3
	Total		163.4	148.5	160.6	179.1	208.6		696.7	614.9
Cathode ('000 tonnes)										
	Escondida	57.5%	21.1	21.4	21.8	21.7	21.8		86.7	78.5
	Cerro Colorado	100%	33.0	33.1	33.0	28.1	31.3		125.5	131.1
	Tintaya (c)	100%	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.3	8.7		36.0	35.4

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	Pinto Valley	100%	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2		9.5	10.6
	Total		65.8	66.0	66.2	61.5	64.0		257.7	255.6
LEAD										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Cannington	100%	59,389	59,364	55,211	70,838	64,472		249,885	237,427
	Pering (g)	100%	-	-	-	-	-		-	2,615
	Total		59,389	59,364	55,211	70,838	64,472		249,885	240,042
ZINC										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Cannington	100%	18,479	14,850	11,692	13,589	13,493		53,624	63,862
	Antamina	33.8%	28,553	27,933	27,026	19,099	15,545		89,603	82,685
	Selbaie (f)	100%	7,364	6,311	7,194	2,506	-		16,011	30,165
	Pering (g)	100%	-	-	-	-	-		-	17,096
	Total		54,396	49,094	45,912	35,194	29,038		159,238	193,808
	Refer footnotes on page 4.									
BASE METALS (continued)										
GOLD										
Payable metal in concentrate (ounces)										
	Escondida (b)	57.5%	20,664	25,016	24,833	27,492	26,044		103,385	64,132
	Tintaya (c)	100%	-	-	2,658	4,009	5,101		11,768	-
	Alumbraera (d)	25%	-	-	-	-	-		-	121,303
	Selbaie (f)	100%	4,081	3,129	3,428	1,413	-		7,970	17,782
	Highland Valley Copper (e)	33.6%	1,007	1,025	1,166	-	-		2,191	4,665
	Total		25,752	29,170	32,085	32,914	31,145		125,314	207,882
SILVER										
Payable metal in concentrate ('000 ounces)										

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	Cannington	100%	8,161	9,177	8,287	10,485	9,471		37,420	34,872
	Escondida	57.5%	538	561	550	614	720		2,445	1,700
	Antamina	33.8%	517	435	494	588	662		2,179	2,227
	Tintaya (c)	100.0%	-	-	170	239	200		608	-
	Alumbraera (d)	25.0%	-	-	-	-	-		-	200
	Highland Valley Copper (e)	33.6%	143	160	163	-	-		323	604
	Selbaie (f)	100%	284	263	316	138	-		717	1,525
	Total		9,643	10,596	9,980	12,064	11,053		43,692	41,128
<b>MOLYBDENUM</b>										
Payable metal in concentrate (tonnes)										
	Antamina	33.8%	21	25	20	81	240		366	342
	Highland Valley Copper (e)	33.6%	280	300	270	-	-		570	1,010
	Total		301	325	290	81	240		936	1,352
<b>CARBON STEEL MATERIALS</b>										
IRON ORE (h)										
Production ('000 tonnes)										
	Mt Newman Joint Venture	85%	6,221	6,639	6,707	6,031	5,084		24,461	21,958
	Goldsworthy Joint Venture (i)	85%	1,497	1,633	1,477	1,348	1,386		5,844	6,693
	Area C Joint Venture (j)	85%	19	341	1,048	1,768	2,519		5,676	19
	Yandi Joint Venture	85%	8,353	8,679	9,005	8,429	8,046		34,159	31,788
	Jimblebar	100%	1,428	1,622	1,520	1,647	1,566		6,355	5,418
	Samarco	50%	1,902	1,956	1,971	1,862	1,936		7,725	7,856
	Total		19,420	20,870	21,728	21,085	20,537		84,220	73,732
<b>METALLURGICAL COAL (k)</b>										
Production ('000 tonnes)										

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	BMA	50%	5,769	5,591	5,395	5,263	6,285		22,534	21,291
	BHP Mitsui Coal (l)	80%	2,033	1,926	1,591	1,811	1,653		6,981	6,568
	Illawarra	100%	1,224	1,582	1,459	1,458	1,346		5,845	6,763
	Total		9,026	9,099	8,445	8,532	9,284		35,360	34,622
	<b>MANGANESE ORES</b>									
	Saleable production ('000 tonnes)									
	South Africa (m)	60%	574	600	651	604	647		2,502	2,249
	Australia (m)	60%	484	553	548	660	690		2,451	1,853
	Total		1,058	1,153	1,199	1,264	1,337		4,953	4,102
	<b>MANGANESE ALLOYS</b>									
	Saleable production ('000 tonnes)									
	South Africa (m)	60%	137	93	122	116	131		462	503
	Australia (m)	60%	58	54	61	63	72		250	234
	Total		195	147	183	179	203		712	737
	Refer footnotes on page 4.									
	<b>CARBON STEEL MATERIALS (cont'd)</b>									
	<b>HOT BRIQUETTED IRON</b>									
	Production ('000 tonnes)									
	Boodarie™ Iron (n)	100%	458	496	527	399	294		1,716	1,670
	<b>DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS</b>									
	<b>DIAMONDS</b>									
	Production ('000 carats)									
	Ekati™	80%	1,300	1,552	1,704	1,015	1,211		5,482	4,340

ENERGY COAL									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	South Africa	100%	13,812	13,782	13,472	13,231	13,768	54,253	54,239
	USA	100%	3,877	3,560	2,829	3,687	3,154	13,230	14,163
	Australia	100%	2,041	1,756	2,054	2,318	2,590	8,718	6,441
	Indonesia (o)	80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	273
	Colombia	33%	2,261	2,036	1,623	2,043	1,982	7,684	6,587
	Total		21,991	21,134	19,978	21,279	21,494	83,885	81,703
STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS									
NICKEL									
Production ('000 tonnes)									
	CMSA	99.8%	12.2	12.4	12.2	12.5	12.0	49.1	46.9
	Yabulu	100%	8.8	8.2	7.8	8.7	7.9	32.6	31.2
	Total		21.0	20.6	20.0	21.2	19.9	81.7	78.1
FERROCHROME									
Saleable production ('000 tonnes)									
	South Africa (m)	60%	259	227	269	266	264	1,026	990
(a) Metal production is reported on the basis of payable metal.									
(b) The Escondida Phase IV expansion was commissioned in October 2002.									
(c) Sulphide production at Tintaya was temporarily reduced in January 2002 due to weak market conditions, and recommenced during August 2003.									
(d) BHP Billiton sold its interest in Alumbrera with effect from June 2003.									
(e) BHP Billiton sold its interest in Highland Valley Copper with effect from January 3, 2004.									
(f) Production at Selbaie ceased in February 2004, in accordance with mine plan. Shipments ceased in May 2004.									
(g) Production ceased at Pering, ahead of mine closure, in February 2003.									
(h) Iron ore production is reported on a wet tonnes basis.									

	(i) Includes bulk sample production from Area C prior to May 2003.								
	(j) Production commenced in May 2003.								
	(k) Coal production is reported on the basis of saleable product. Production figures include some thermal coal.								
	(l) Shown on 100% basis before 20% outside equity interest.								
	(m) Shown on 100% basis. BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.								
	(n) Production was suspended at Boodarie Iron following a gas explosion in May 2004.								
	(o) Production shown on 86.5% basis after allowing for Indonesian state owned corporation's 13.5% share of production.								
	Mining operations at Petangis ceased in October 2002.								

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT		QUARTER ENDED					YEAR ENDED	
		JUNE 2003	SEPT 2003	DEC 2003	MARCH 2004	JUNE 2004	JUNE 2004	JUNE 2003
<b>PETROLEUM</b>								
BHP Billiton attributable production unless otherwise stated.								
<b>CRUDE OIL &amp; CONDENSATE</b> ( <sup>000</sup> barrels)								
	Bass Strait	5,643	5,872	5,333	5,174	4,641	21,020	23,632
	North West Shelf - condensate	1,560	1,491	1,204	1,352	1,367	5,414	6,238
	North West Shelf - Wanaea/Cossack	1,606	1,604	1,675	1,519	1,357	6,155	6,816
	Laminaria	1,161	1,151	966	928	803	3,848	7,363
	Griffin	708	742	563	380	585	2,270	3,909
	Pakistan	14	53	53	50	49	205	65
	Typhoon/Boris (a)	1,430	1,214	1,605	1,457	1,462	5,738	4,169
	Americas	715	608	586	332	213	1,739	2,901
	Liverpool Bay	2,344	2,324	2,061	1,926	1,788	8,099	8,819
	Bruce/Keith	454	453	387	423	388	1,651	1,981
	Algeria (b)			444	800	644	1,888	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,635</b>	<b>15,512</b>	<b>14,877</b>	<b>14,341</b>	<b>13,297</b>	<b>58,027</b>	<b>65,893</b>

NATURAL GAS (billion cubic feet)									
	Bass Strait	25.37	33.04	23.86	24.95	34.62		116.47	97.02
	North West Shelf - Domestic	4.07	3.99	3.95	3.91	3.76		15.61	15.32
	North West Shelf - LNG	15.41	16.74	14.93	13.74	15.43		60.84	62.00
	Griffin	0.81	0.96	0.90	0.44	0.67		2.97	3.60
	Pakistan	2.33	7.86	7.83	7.51	7.10		30.30	10.49
	Typhoon/Boris (a)	2.03	1.58	2.41	2.14	2.13		8.26	6.15
	Americas	3.42	3.25	3.73	2.60	2.75		12.33	14.47
	Bruce	8.17	8.77	8.52	9.27	8.29		34.85	33.35
	Keith	0.14	0.11	0.08	0.17	0.20		0.56	0.51
	Liverpool Bay	11.16	8.89	11.36	11.74	10.16		42.15	38.26
	Total	72.91	85.19	77.57	76.47	85.11		324.34	281.17
LPG ('000 tonnes)									
	Bass Strait	135.18	150.19	130.02	111.26	136.52		527.99	511.81
	North West Shelf	32.39	34.21	28.11	29.59	32.95		124.86	132.42
	Bruce	37.24	14.12	17.71	18.40	18.64		68.87	95.26
	Keith	0.76	0.81	0.31	0.82	0.63		2.57	3.63
	Algeria (b)			24.36	57.76	47.12		129.24	-
	Total	205.57	199.33	200.51	217.83	235.86		853.53	743.12
ETHANE ('000 tonnes)		24.97	27.32	25.25	16.59	25.14		94.30	94.90
TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS		30.3	32.1	30.2	29.8	30.3		122.47	121.80
(million barrels of oil equivalent) (c)									
(a) Boris commenced production in February 2003.									
(b) Ohanet commenced production in October 2003.									
(c) Total barrels of oil equivalent (boe) conversions based on the following:									
	6000 scf of natural gas equals 1 boe								
	1 tonne of LPG equals 11.6 boe								

1 tonne of ethane equals 4.4667 boe									
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PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT		QUARTER ENDED						YEAR ENDED	
		JUNE 2003	SEPT 2003	DEC 2003	MARCH 2004	JUNE 2004	JUNE 2004	JUNE 2003	
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>									
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.									
('000 tonnes)									
<b>ALUMINA</b>									
	Production								
	Worsley, Australia	724	699	700	704	696		2,799	2,742
	Paranam, Suriname	223	227	230	228	233		918	879
	Alumar, Brazil	113	127	120	130	130		507	471
	Total	1,060	1,053	1,050	1,062	1,059		4,224	4,092
	Sales								
	Worsley, Australia	636	697	740	652	732		2,821	2,751
	Paranam, Suriname	228	221	250	233	214		918	925
	Alumar, Brazil	107	120	128	144	111		503	486
	Total	971	1,038	1,118	1,029	1,057		4,242	4,162
<b>ALUMINIUM</b>									
	Production								
	Hillside, South Africa	132	135	151	169	167		622	534
	Bayside, South Africa	46	47	46	45	46		184	185
	Alumar, Brazil	45	31	36	44	45		156	178
	Valesul, Brazil	11	11	11	11	11		44	43
	Mozal, Mozambique	39	58	64	64	64		250	134

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	Total		273	282	308	333	333	1,256	1,074
	Sales								
	Hillside, South Africa		143	134	145	176	171	626	535
	Bayside, South Africa		48	54	35	49	45	183	188
	Alumar, Brazil		51	38	25	39	55	157	179
	Valesul, Brazil		10	11	12	11	12	46	40
	Mozal, Mozambique		41	61	40	78	56	235	136
	Total		293	298	257	353	339	1,247	1,078

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT			QUARTER ENDED					YEAR ENDED	
			JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE
			2003	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003
<b>BASE METALS</b>									
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated. Metals production is payable metal unless otherwise stated.									
<u>Escondida, Chile (a)</u>									
	Material mined (100%)	('000 tonnes)	74,665	69,342	82,909	83,640	95,757	331,648	297,105
	Sulphide ore milled (100%)	('000 tonnes)	16,416	18,888	18,299	19,620	21,197	78,004	57,934
	Average copper grade	(%)	1.62%	1.33%	1.31%	1.48%	1.61%	1.44%	1.55%
	Production ex Mill (100%)	('000 tonnes)	230.9	208.2	197.1	239.6	284.2	929.1	759.1
	Production								
	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	126.6	115.9	109.1	130.8	159.1	514.9	419.1
	Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	20,664	25,016	24,833	27,492	26,044	103,385	64,132
	Copper cathode (SXEW)	('000 tonnes)	21.1	21.4	21.8	21.7	21.8	86.7	78.5

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	Payable silver concentrate	('000 ounces)	538	561	550	614	720		2,445	1,700
	Sales									
	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	128.9	116.2	114.8	127.3	150.4		508.7	424.2
	Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	20,138	25,335	26,984	28,545	24,874		105,738	65,702
	Copper cathode (SXEW)	('000 tonnes)	20.3	18.1	23.8	26.2	21.3		89.4	77.2
	Payable silver concentrate	('000 ounces)	584	574	634	612	683		2,503	1,737
	(a) Includes production from the Escondida Phase IV expansion which commissioned in October 2002.									
	<u>Tintaya, Peru (a)</u>									
	Material mined	('000 tonnes)	-	4,151	17,450	17,206	17,944		56,751	-
	Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	-	-	1,408	1,609	1,616		4,633	-
	Average copper grade	(%)	-	-	1.38%	1.61%	1.45%		1.48%	-
	Production									
	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	-	-	15.0	22.9	19.6		57.5	-
	Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	-	-	2,658	4,009	5,101		11,768	-
	Copper cathode (SXEW)	('000 tonnes)	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.3	8.7		36.0	35.4
	Payable silver concentrate	('000 ounces)	-	-	170.0	238.5	199.8		608	-
	Sales									
	Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	-	-	10.6	23.1	20.6		54.3	-
	Payable gold concentrate	(fine ounces)	-	-	3,086	4,372	4,100		11,558	-
	Copper cathode (SXEW)	('000 tonnes)	9.5	8.9	8.7	8.2	8.4		34.2	34.9
	Payable silver concentrate	('000 ounces)	-	-	100.0	240.1	226.4		566.5	-

(a) Sulphide production at Tintaya was temporarily suspended in January 2002 due to weak market conditions.									
Sulphide mining operations recommenced during August 2003.									
<b>Cerro Colorado, Chile</b>									
Material mined	('000 tonnes)	16,458	20,332	19,855	16,199	16,697	73,083	66,012	
Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	4,130	4,346	4,405	3,700	4,330	16,781	15,747	
Average copper grade	(%)	0.96%	0.99%	1.00%	0.92%	0.90%	0.95%	0.99%	
Production									
Copper cathode	('000 tonnes)	33.0	33.1	33.0	28.1	31.3	125.5	131.1	
Sales									
Copper cathode	('000 tonnes)	31.5	28.9	35.2	27.8	35.5	127.4	127.1	
<b>Antamina, Peru</b>									
Material mined (100%)	('000 tonnes)	28,353	30,174	28,474	28,588	36,035	123,271	109,675	
Ore milled (100%)	('000 tonnes)	6,697	6,018	7,273	6,954	8,205	28,450	26,310	
Average head grades									
- Copper	(%)	1.09%	1.17%	1.17%	1.26%	1.37%	1.25%	1.29%	
- Zinc	(%)	1.97%	2.17%	1.77%	1.48%	0.97%	1.55%	1.49%	
Production									
Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	21.2	16.9	20.5	24.6	29.9	91.9	96.9	
Payable zinc	(tonnes)	28,553	27,933	27,026	19,099	15,545	89,603	82,685	
Payable silver	('000 ounces)	517	435	494	588	662	2,179	2,227	
Payable molybdenum	('000 tonnes)	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.24	0.37	0.34	
Sales									
Payable copper	('000 tonnes)	21.2	18.6	22.6	20.2	26.4	87.8	100.0	

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	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	31,034	26,781	26,928	14,219	19,931		87,859	80,025
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	435	420	491	423	655		1,989	2,130
	Payable molybdenum	('000 tonnes)	0.10	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.11		0.20	0.39
<b>Cannington, Australia</b>										
	Material mined	('000 tonnes)	588	637	699	729	681		2,746	2,393
	Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	560	589	598	698	724		2,609	2,312
	Average head grades									
	- Silver	(g/t)	525	564	497	539	486		520	544
	- Lead	(%)	12.1%	11.5%	10.5%	11.4%	10.8%		11.1%	11.9%
	- Zinc	(%)	5.3%	4.0%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%		3.6%	4.5%
	Production									
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	8,161	9,177	8,287	10,485	9,471		37,420	34,872
	Payable lead	(tonnes)	59,389	59,364	55,211	70,838	64,472		249,885	237,427
	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	18,479	14,850	11,692	13,589	13,493		53,624	63,862
	Sales									
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	8,384	6,765	10,716	8,569	12,583		38,633	35,609
	Payable lead	(tonnes)	59,594	43,953	69,447	56,259	84,315		253,974	240,579
	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	13,197	16,223	15,443	12,790	13,410		57,866	58,308
<b>Selbaie, Canada (a)</b>										
	Ore milled	('000 tonnes)	982	858	1,017	346	-		2,221	3,949
	Average head grades									
	- Zinc	(%)	1.18%	1.13%	1.13%	1.16%	-		1.14%	1.19%
	- Copper	(%)	0.24%	0.25%	0.24%	0.30%	-		0.25%	0.28%
	- Gold	(g/t)	0.23	0.22	0.20	0.24	-		0.21	0.24
	- Silver	(g/t)	20.62	22.38	24.25	26.64	-		23.90	25.36
	Production									

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	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	7,364	6,311	7,194	2,506	-	16,011	30,165
	Payable copper	(tonnes)	1,768	1,606	1,764	770	-	4,140	8,322
	Payable gold concentrate	(ounces)	4,081	3,129	3,428	1,413	-	7,970	17,782
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	284	263	316	138	-	717	1,525
	Sales								
	Payable zinc	(tonnes)	6,812	6,209	7,429	4,127	-	17,765	30,567
	Payable copper	(tonnes)	1,612	1,918	1,615	1,741	1,356	6,630	9,293
	Payable gold concentrate	(ounces)	4,280	4,384	3,377	3,364	2,484	13,609	18,802
	Payable silver	('000 ounces)	355	292	253	317	231	1,093	1,804
(a) Production ceased in February 2004, in accordance with mine plan. Shipments ceased in May 2004.									
<u>Pinto Valley, USA</u>									
	Production								
	Copper cathode (SXEW)	('000 tonnes)	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	9.5	10.6
	Sales								
	Copper cathode (SXEW)	('000 tonnes)	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	9.5	10.5

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT									
			QUARTER ENDED				YEAR ENDED		
			JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE
			2003	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003
<b>CARBON STEEL MATERIALS</b>									
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.									
('000 tonnes)									
IRON ORE (a)									
<u>Pilbara, Australia</u>									
	Production								

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	Mt Newman Joint Venture		6,221	6,639	6,707	6,031	5,084		24,461	21,958
	Goldsworthy Joint Venture (b)		1,497	1,633	1,477	1,348	1,386		5,844	6,693
	Area C Joint Venture (c)		19	341	1,048	1,768	2,519		5,676	19
	Yandi Joint Venture		8,353	8,679	9,005	8,429	8,046		34,159	31,788
	Jimblebar		1,428	1,622	1,520	1,647	1,566		6,355	5,418
	Total (BHP Billiton share)		17,518	18,914	19,757	19,223	18,601		76,495	65,876
	Total production (100%)		20,359	21,965	22,975	22,326	21,608		88,874	76,547
	Shipments									
	Lump		4,193	4,898	5,169	5,402	5,064		20,533	17,170
	Fines		13,187	13,334	13,968	13,181	14,067		54,550	51,069
	Total (BHP Billiton share)		17,380	18,232	19,137	18,583	19,131		75,083	68,239
	Total shipments (100%)		20,448	21,450	22,515	21,862	22,507		88,334	80,284
	(a) Iron ore production and shipments are reported on a wet tonnes basis.									
	(b) Includes bulk sample production from Area C prior to May 2003.									
	(c) Mining commenced in May 2003.									
	<u>Samarco, Brazil</u>									
	Production		1,902	1,956	1,971	1,862	1,936		7,725	7,856
	Shipments		2,153	2,013	1,886	1,918	1,994		7,811	8,240
	<b>METALLURGICAL COAL (a)</b>									
	<u>Queensland, Australia</u>									
	Production									
	<u>BMA</u>									
	Blackwater		1,937	1,578	1,581	1,508	1,864		6,531	6,841
	Goonyella		1,075	994	829	1,019	935		3,777	3,812
	Peak Downs		1,076	1,004	1,004	881	1,223		4,112	3,631

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	Saraji		666	747	655	703	806		2,911	2,321
	Norwich Park		527	524	582	556	682		2,344	2,161
	Gregory Joint Venture		488	744	744	596	775		2,859	2,525
	BMA total		5,769	5,591	5,395	5,263	6,285		22,534	21,291
	<u>BHP Mitsui Coal (b)</u>									
	Riverside		1,014	969	812	967	575		3,323	2,641
	South Walker Creek		1,019	957	779	844	1,078		3,658	3,927
	BHP Mitsui Coal total		2,033	1,926	1,591	1,811	1,653		6,981	6,568
	<u>Queensland total</u>		7,802	7,517	6,986	7,074	7,938		29,515	27,859
	Shipments									
	Coking coal		4,395	4,838	5,258	5,116	4,777		19,989	17,301
	Weak coking coal		1,525	1,617	1,649	1,585	1,569		6,420	6,336
	Thermal coal		943	801	987	803	756		3,347	3,617
	Total		6,863	7,256	7,894	7,504	7,102		29,756	27,254
	(a) Coal production is reported on the basis of saleable product. Production figures include some thermal coal.									
	(b) BHP Mitsui Coal production shown on 100% basis before 20% outside equity interest.									
	<u>Illawarra, Australia</u>									
	Production		1,224	1,582	1,459	1,458	1,346		5,845	6,763
	Shipments									
	Coking coal		1,571	1,513	1,293	1,359	1,215		5,380	6,597
	Thermal coal		179	91	47	134	114		386	650
	Total		1,750	1,604	1,340	1,493	1,329		5,766	7,247
	MANGANESE ORES									
	<u>South Africa</u>									
	Saleable production (a)		574	600	651	604	647		2,502	2,249
	(a) Shown on 100% basis, BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.									

<u>Australia</u>										
	Saleable production (a)		484	553	548	660	690		2,451	1,853
(a) Shown on 100% basis, BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.										
MANGANESE ALLOYS										
<u>South Africa</u>										
	Saleable production (a)		137	93	122	116	131		462	503
(a) Shown on 100% basis, BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.										
<u>Australia</u>										
	Saleable production (a)		58	54	61	63	72		250	234
(a) Shown on 100% basis, BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.										
HOT BRIQUETTED IRON										
<u>Boodarie™ Iron, Australia</u>										
	Production (a)		458	496	527	399	294		1,716	1,670
	Shipments		487	435	570	436	318		1,759	1,569
(a) Production was suspended at Boodarie Iron following a gas explosion in May 2004.										

<b>PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT</b>									
QUARTER ENDED							YEAR ENDED		
			JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE
			2003	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003
<b>DIAMONDS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS</b>									
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.									
DIAMONDS									

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<u>Ekati™, Canada</u>									
	Ore Processed (100%)	('000 tonnes)	1,182	1,064	1,123	1,052	1,207	4,446	4,310
	Production	('000 carats)	1,300	1,552	1,704	1,015	1,211	5,482	4,340

<b>PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT</b>									
			QUARTER ENDED					YEAR ENDED	
			JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE
			2003	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003
<b>ENERGY COAL</b>									
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.									
('000 tonnes)									
<u>Ingwe, South Africa</u>									
	Production		13,812	13,782	13,472	13,231	13,768	54,253	54,239
	Sales								
	Export		6,339	5,274	5,500	5,354	4,830	20,958	24,292
	Local utility		7,926	8,215	7,701	7,579	8,426	31,921	30,185
	Inland		337	338	326	330	361	1,355	1,560
	Total		14,602	13,827	13,527	13,263	13,617	54,234	56,037
<u>New Mexico, USA</u>									
	Production								
	Navajo Coal		2,497	2,240	1,553	1,709	1,714	7,216	8,050
	San Juan Coal		1,380	1,320	1,276	1,978	1,440	6,014	6,113
	Total		3,877	3,560	2,829	3,687	3,154	13,230	14,163
	Sales - local utility		3,643	3,713	3,327	3,213	3,353	13,606	13,853
<u>Hunter Valley, Australia</u>									
	Production		2,041	1,756	2,054	2,318	2,590	8,718	6,441
	Sales								

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	Export		1,301	952	861	1,729	1,734		5,276	4,001
	Inland		1,285	873	633	1,044	958		3,508	2,631
	Total		2,586	1,825	1,494	2,773	2,692		8,784	6,632
<b>Kalimantan, Indonesia</b>										
	Production (a)									
	Petangis (b)		-	-	-	-	-		-	273
	Total		-	-	-	-	-		-	273
	Sales - export		-	-	-	-	-		-	294
(a) Reported on 86.5% basis after allowing for the Indonesian state-owned corporation's 13.5% share of all production.										
(b) Mining operations at Petangis ceased in October 2002.										
<b>Cerrejon Coal, Colombia</b>										
	Production		2,261	2,036	1,623	2,043	1,982		7,684	6,587
	Sales - export		2,247	1,966	1,999	1,828	2,283		8,076	7,315

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT REPORT			QUARTER ENDED					YEAR ENDED		
			JUNE	SEPT	DEC	MARCH	JUNE	JUNE	JUNE	
			2003	2003	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003	
<b>STAINLESS STEEL MATERIALS</b>										
BHP Billiton attributable production and sales unless otherwise stated.										
('000 tonnes)										
<b>NICKEL</b>										
<b>CMSA, Colombia</b>										
	Production		12.2	12.4	12.2	12.5	12.0		49.1	46.9
	Sales		13.5	11.1	13.1	11.2	12.8		48.2	47.1
<b>Yabulu, Australia</b>										
	Production									

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	Nickel		8.8	8.2	7.8	8.7	7.9		32.6	31.2
	Cobalt		0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5		1.9	1.9
	Sales									
	Nickel		9.5	7.8	8.4	8.0	7.9		32.1	33.0
	Cobalt		0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4		1.8	2.0
FERROCHROME										
South Africa										
	Saleable production (a)		259	227	269	266	264		1,026	990
(a) Shown on 100% basis, BHP Billiton interest in saleable production is 60%.										

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria  
3000  
Telephone +61 1300 554 757 Facsimile +61 3 9609 3015

Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH United  
Kingdom  
Telephone +44 20 7802 4000 Facsimile +44 20 7802 4111

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

Plc  
/s/ KAREN WOOD

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Karen Wood  
Title: Company Secretary  
Date:

28 July 2004