

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
December 12, 2012

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# 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

December 12, 2012

| <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)<br>180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA<br>3000 AUSTRALIA |
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|---|---|
| - | BHP Billiton Plc (REG. NO. 3196209)<br>NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,<br>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-

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NEWS RELEASE

Release Time:  
IMMEDIATE

Date:  
12 December 2012

Number:  
28/12

**BHP BILLITON TO SELL INTEREST IN EAST AND WEST BROWSE JOINT VENTURES**

BHP Billiton has signed a definitive agreement with PetroChina International Investment (Australia) Pty Ltd to sell its 8.33 per cent interest in the East Browse Joint Venture and 20 per cent interest in the West Browse Joint Venture, located offshore Western Australia, for a cash consideration of US\$1.63 billion. The transaction is subject to regulatory approval and other customary conditions. Completion is expected in the first half of calendar year 2013.

BHP Billiton Chief Executive Petroleum, J Michael Yeager, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for both companies. PetroChina has acquired an interest in a world class gas resource and BHP Billiton has exited a non-strategic asset."

The Browse Joint Venture participants hold a right to offer to match the transaction with respect to BHP Billiton's interests in the East and West Browse Joint Ventures and have a customary period to consider whether to make an offer to match.

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

**About PetroChina:**

PetroChina Company Limited is China's largest oil and gas producer and distributor, playing a leading role in the oil and gas industry in that country. It is also one of the largest oil companies in the world. It is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited and on the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street  
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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209  
Registered in England and Wales  
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Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

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.

Date : December 12, 2012

BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077) BHP Billiton  
Plc (REG. NO. 3196209)

By: /s/ Jane McAloon  
Name: Jane McAloon  
Title: Group Company Secretary