

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
February 16, 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 16, 2017**

**BHP BILLITON LIMITED**

**(ABN 49 004 028 077)**

**(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)**

**VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

**BHP BILLITON PLC**

**(REG. NO. 3196209)**

**(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)**

**ENGLAND AND WALES**

**(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)**

**(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)**

**171 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE,**

**NEATHOUSE PLACE, LONDON,**

**VICTORIA 3000 AUSTRALIA**

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**(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

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** 16 February 2017

**Release Number** 4/17

**CHANGES TO THE BHP BILLITON BOARD**

BHP Billiton Chairman, Jac Nasser, today announced the appointment of Grant King to the BHP Billiton Board as an independent Non-executive Director, effective as of 1 March 2017.

From 2000 until 2016, Mr King served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Origin Energy Limited, a leading Australian energy retailer with diverse operations spanning across the energy supply chain.

Mr King is currently the President of the Business Council of Australia.

Mr Nasser said Mr King's appointment reflected the Board's commitment to a structured and rigorous approach to Board succession and planning, having regard to the skills, experience and attributes required to effectively govern the business.

Grant is an excellent appointment and he will bring to the Board his strategic thinking, immense intellect, and his ability to apply a long term view. He has extensive executive experience leading a company that has operated in a volatile and changing global environment, and broad oil and gas industry experience.

Pat Davies, who has been a Non-executive Director of BHP Billiton since June 2012, will retire from the Board, with effect from 6 April 2017, to focus on his family business and to pursue other interests.

Mr Nasser thanked Mr Davies for his valuable contribution to the Board and service to BHP Billiton during his tenure.

We wish Pat all the best for the future and we will miss his insights and perspectives.

There will be 10 Non-executive Directors on the BHP Billiton Board after the appointment of Mr King and the retirement of Mr Davies.

**Grant King**

Mr King, 62, served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Origin Energy Limited from February 2000 to November 2016 following Origin Energy's demerger from Boral Limited. During his tenure at Origin Energy, he successfully led the company through a period of significant growth and presided over a number of acquisitions and major development projects.

Between 1994 and 2000, Mr King served as Managing Director of Boral Energy. Prior to joining Boral Energy, he held various management roles with The Australian Gas Light Company (from 1977 to 1994).

Mr King is the President of the Business Council of Australia and a Director of the University of New South Wales Foundation Ltd and the Origin Foundation Limited.

Mr King has a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of New South Wales, Australia and a Master of Management from the University of Wollongong, Australia. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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

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Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is

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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 16, 2017

By: /s/ Rachel Agnew

Name: Rachel Agnew

Title: Company Secretary