

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

BHP Billiton Iron Ore has strengthened its long-term support for Western Australia with the announcement of a A\$30 million investment for a new retail facility in the town of Newman, to be developed as part of an innovative community partnership with St Bartholomew's House (St Bart's).

Newman, located around 1,200 kilometres north of Perth, is a community of approximately 7,000 people and home to Mt Whaleback – BHP Billiton's biggest iron ore mine.

The new retail facility will provide residents with a range of retail and dining options which may include a supermarket, discount department store and cafe.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore President, Jimmy Wilson, said the Company had a long history in Newman dating back to 1966 – the year construction of the Newman township began.

“Since then, we have continued to maintain a strong commitment to Newman through a range of community investments and key infrastructure and accommodation developments,” he said.

“The investment announced today is the largest the Company has made in Australia and will see BHP Billiton partner with respected not-for-profit organisation, St Bart's, to build and manage the new facility.

“Under a unique partnership model, St Bart's will use profits from the retail facility to provide ongoing support to the Newman community as well as create a Community Trust that will provide small grants for local community projects.

“This innovative model sets a new standard in corporate philanthropy and ensures that our bricks and mortar investment translates into positive, long-lasting economic and social benefits for the local community.”

Mr Wilson said the mining industry has made, and continues to make a significant contribution to regional communities in Western Australia.

“Despite current market conditions, we remain committed to supporting our local communities and to our presence in the Pilbara for decades to come.”

The new facility will complement works being undertaken by the Western Australian Government and the Shire of East Pilbara to develop a new Town Square, the design of which was unveiled at an event in Newman with WA Minister for Regional Development and Lands, the Hon. Terry Redman MLA.

The new retail facility will be located in the new Town Centre and will include 4,500 square metres of retail space. Construction of the new retail facility is due to commence in the middle of this year.

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

## **Media Relations**

### **Australia**

Emily Perry  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2800 Mobile: +61 477 325 803  
email: [Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com)

Paul Hitchins  
Tel: + 61 3 9609 2592 Mobile: + 61 419 315 001  
email: [Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com)

Eleanor Nichols  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2360 Mobile: +61 407 064 748  
email: [Eleanor.Nichols@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Eleanor.Nichols@bhpbilliton.com)

### **United Kingdom**

Ruban Yogarajah  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4033 Mobile: +44 7827 082 022  
email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

Jennifer White  
Tel: +44 20 7802 7462 Mobile: +44 7827 253 764  
email: [Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com)

### **Americas**

Ruban Yogarajah  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4033 Mobile: +44 7827 082 022  
email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 16, 171 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia  
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

## **Investor Relations**

### **Australia**

Tara Dines  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005  
email: [Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com)

Andrew Gunn  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 402 087 354  
email: [Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com)

### **United Kingdom and South Africa**

Jonathan Price  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7990 527 726  
email: [Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com)

Dean Simon  
Tel: +44 20 7802 7461 Mobile: +44 7717 511 193  
email: [Dean.Simon@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Dean.Simon@bhpbilliton.com)

### **Americas**

James Agar  
Tel: +1 212 310 1421 Mobile: +1 347 882 3011  
email: [James.Agar@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:James.Agar@bhpbilliton.com)

Joseph Suarez  
Tel: +1 212 310 1422 Mobile: +1 646 400 3803  
email: [Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209  
Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place  
London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom  
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

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