

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Release Time** IMMEDIATE  
**Date** 11 August 2016  
**Location** Melbourne, Australia

### **BHP BILLITON TO CEASE PROGRESSION OF CAROONA COAL PROJECT**

BHP Billiton notes today's announcement by the New South Wales Government regarding its approach to future mining activities in the region where the Caroona Coal Project is situated.

BHP Billiton has agreed to cease progression of the Caroona Coal Project, through the cancellation of Exploration Licence (EL) 6505.

BHP Billiton Minerals Australia President, Mike Henry, acknowledged the NSW Government's willingness to come to an acceptable agreement in respect of the cancellation of EL6505.

"While we believe that Caroona would have been developed responsibly, we accept the Government's decision and appreciate its willingness to work with us to agree an acceptable financial outcome for the cancellation of our exploration licence," Mr Henry said.

"The Caroona Coal Project was studied extensively and developed cautiously for almost 10 years. We carried out extensive planning to ensure there would be no mining under the black soil plains, consistent with the conditions contained in our Exploration Licence.

"It was also subject to extensive scientific research which showed the proposed project could have been developed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

"We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the local community for working closely with us over the past 10 years through the project's lengthy consultation process."

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

## Media Relations

### Australia and Asia

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

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

Fiona Hadley  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2211 Mobile +61 427 777 908  
Email: [Fiona.Hadley@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Fiona.Hadley@bhpbilliton.com)

Amanda Saunders  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3985 Mobile +61 417 487 973  
Email: [Amanda.Saunders@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Amanda.Saunders@bhpbilliton.com)

### United Kingdom and South Africa

Ruban Yogarajah  
Tel: +44 207 802 4033 Mobile +44 7827 082 022  
Email: [Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com)

### North America

Bronwyn Wilkinson  
Mobile: +1 604 340 8753  
Email: [Bronwyn.Wilkinson@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Bronwyn.Wilkinson@bhpbilliton.com)

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 18, 171 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia  
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

## Investor Relations

### Australia and Asia

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

Rob Clifford  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7788 308 844  
Email: [Rob.Clifford@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Rob.Clifford@bhpbilliton.com)

Elisa Morniroli  
Tel: +44 20 7802 7611 Mobile: +44 7825 926 646  
Email: [Elisa.Morniroli@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Elisa.Morniroli@bhpbilliton.com)

### Americas

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

Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is headquartered in Australia



Follow us on social media