bhpbilliton

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Purchase of Shares in BHP Billiton Plc

In connection with the proposed repurchase of shares approved by shareholders at the annual general meeting on 4 November 2002, BHP Billiton Plc ("**BHP Billiton**") announces that it has been notified by Nelson Investment Limited ("**Nelson**") that on 13 May 2003 Nelson purchased, through J. P. Morgan Securities Ltd., 1,000,000 ordinary shares of US$0.50 each in BHP Billiton at a price of £3.145464 per share.

The purchase represents approximately 0.040516 per cent of BHP Billiton's issued ordinary share capital and brings the aggregate number of shares purchased to date by Nelson Investment Limited to 1,600,000, representing approximately 0.064826 per cent of BHP Billiton's issued ordinary share capital.