

NEWS RELEASE

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BHP BILLITON ANNOUNCES FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL OF BID FOR WMC RESOURCES LTD

BHP Billiton advises that the Australian Treasurer has confirmed that there are no objections under the Australian Government's foreign investment policy to BHP Billiton's acquisition of WMC Resources Ltd. A copy of the Treasurer's announcement is attached.

The Treasurer's confirmation is subject to certain conditions which BHP Billiton has agreed to observe. As the conditions are acceptable to BHP Billiton, BHP Billiton will free its offer of the condition set out in clause 5.1(b) of the Bidder's Statement. This is the second condition to have been removed.

BHP Billiton Chief Executive Officer, Chip Goodyear, welcomed the announcement by the Treasurer of the Government's approval of its bid.

The offer is \$7.85 for each WMC Resources Ltd share and the closing date* of the offer is 7.30 pm (Melbourne time) on 6 May 2005.

*This date is indicative only and may change as permitted by the Australian Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: <http://www.bhpbilliton.com>

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Further Information for U.S. holders

BHP Billiton has filed the Bidder's Statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under cover of Form CB. Investors and holders of WMC Resources securities are strongly advised to read the Bidder's Statement and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC, as well as any amendments and supplements to those documents, because they will contain important information. Investors and holders of WMC Resources securities may obtain free copies of the informational document (when available), as well as other relevant documents filed with the SEC, at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. WMC Resources has issued a target's statement in connection with the offer which investors and holders of WMC Resources securities are strongly advised to read.

This communication is for information purposes only. It shall not constitute an offer to purchase, sell or exchange or the solicitation of an offer to purchase, sell or exchange any securities of WMC Resources. The distribution of this communication may, in some countries, be restricted by law or regulation. Accordingly, persons who come into possession of this document should inform themselves of and observe these restrictions.



TREASURER

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NO. 025

FIRB: BHP BILLITON GROUP/WMC

Exercising powers under the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975* (the Act), I have decided that the Australian Government has no objection to the BHP Billiton Group's (BHPB) proposed acquisition of all the issued shares of WMC Resources Limited (WMC) provided that BHPB complies with the conditions set out in Attachment A.

These conditions are in addition to previous conditions imposed under the Act, all of which remain in place.

CANBERRA

4 April 2005

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ATTACHMENT A

BHPB's undertakings, observance of which is a condition under Section 25 (1A) of the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975* (the Act):

1. BHPB will abide by all Australian federal and state laws and regulations relating to the mining and export of uranium;
2. BHPB will undertake prior consultations with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources on the terms of any and all marketing arrangements it enters into with third parties in respect of uranium, which will be subject to all regulatory requirements imposed as part of the Australian Government's regulations and disclosure rules relating to uranium sales out of Australia.

This condition will have effect indefinitely, subject to amendment of the Act or any revocation or amendment by the Treasurer.