



Issued by: BHP Billiton Plc

To: London Stock Exchange
Australian Stock Exchange

Cc: New York Stock Exchange
JSE Limited
Swiss Stock Exchange
Deutsche Bank
UBS Zurich

Date: 8 September 2006

For Release: Immediately

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BHP BILLITON PLC - TRANSACTION IN OWN SHARES

BHP Billiton Plc announces that on 8 September 2006 it purchased 1,000,000 of its ordinary shares at an average price of 977.1098 pence per ordinary share. It is intended that all of the purchased shares will be held as treasury shares.

Following the above purchase, BHP Billiton Plc holds 21,320,000 of its ordinary shares as treasury shares. The total number of ordinary shares in issue (excluding shares held as treasury shares) is 2,446,827,002.

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The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia