



Issued by: BHP Billiton Plc
BHP Billiton Limited

To: London Stock Exchange
Australian Stock Exchange

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

Date: 20 October 2006

For Release: Immediately

BHP BILLITON PLC - TRANSACTION IN SHARES

BHP Billiton Limited announces that on 20 October 2006 it purchased 500,000 ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Plc at an average price of 1,026.9083 pence per ordinary share.

Following the above purchase, BHP Billiton Plc holds 25,420,000 of its ordinary shares as treasury shares and BHP Billiton Limited holds 21,415,000 of the ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc, for a total of 46,835,000 shares. The total number of BHP Billiton Plc ordinary shares in issue (excluding shares held as treasury shares and shares held by BHP Billiton Limited) is 2,421,312,002.

For further information, please contact:

Investor Relations
Mark Lidiard
Office: +44 (0) 20 7802 4156
Mobile: +44 (0) 77 6993 4942

Company Secretary
BHP Billiton Plc
Robert Franklin
Office: +44 (0) 20 7802 4116
Mobile: +44 (0) 7824 302684

Company Secretary
BHP Billiton Limited
Jane McAloon
Office: +61 3 9609 2445
Mobile: +61 448 551 695

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

Australia
Samantha Evans, Media Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 2898 Mob: +61 400 693 915
email: Samantha.Evans@bhpbilliton.com

Jane Belcher, Investor Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 3952 Mob: +61 4 417 031 653
email: Jane.Belcher@bhpbilliton.com

United States
Tracey Whitehead, Investor Relations
Tel: +44 20 7802 4031 Mob: +44 7917 648 093
email: Tracey.Whitehead@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom
Mark Lidiard, Investor & Media Relations
Tel: +44 20 7802 4156 Mob: +44 7769 934 942
email: Mark.Lidiard@bhpbilliton.com

Illtud Harri, Media Relations
Tel: +44 20 7802 4195 Mob: +44 7920 237 246
email: Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com

South Africa
Alison Gilbert, Investor Relations
Tel SA: +27 11 376 2121 or UK: +44 20 7802 4183
email: Alison.Gilbert@bhpbilliton.com