



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

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For Release: Immediately

BHP BILLITON PLC - TRANSACTION IN SHARES

BHP Billiton Limited announces that on 19 December 2006 it purchased 1,325,000 ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Plc at an average price of 929.73 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 64,035,000 of the ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc, for a total of 89,455,000 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 2,378,692,002.

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