Company Secretariat

Issued by:	BHP Billiton Plc		
To:	London Stock Exchange Australian Securities Exchange	cc:	New York Stock Exchange Swiss Stock Exchange JSE Limited Deutsche Bank UBS Zurich
Date:	8 December 2009		
For Release:	Immediately		
Contact:	Geof Stapledon +44 20 7802 4176		

Notification of Major Interest in Shares

The following notification was received yesterday, 7 December 2009, by BHP Billiton Plc from Norges Bank relating to major interests in shares of BHP Billiton Plc.

TR-1: NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR INTEREST IN SHARES[i]

1. Identity of the issuer or the underlying issuer of existing shares to which voting rights are attached: [ii]	**BHP Billiton Plc** **GB0000566504** **US05545E2090**

2 Reason for the notification (please tick the appropriate box or boxes):	
An acquisition or disposal of voting rights	X
An acquisition or disposal of qualifying financial instruments which may result in the acquisition of shares already issued to which voting rights are attached	
An acquisition or disposal of instruments with similar economic effect to qualifying financial instruments	
An event changing the breakdown of voting rights	
Other (please specify):	

3. Full name of person(s) subject to the notification obligation: [iii]	**Norges Bank**
4. Full name of shareholder(s) (if different from 3.):[iv]	**N/A**
5. Date of the transaction and date on which the threshold is crossed or reached: [v]	**3rd December 2009**
6. Date on which issuer notified:	**7th December 2009**
7. Threshold(s) that is/are crossed or reached: [vi, vii]	**3%**

8. Notified details:							
A: Voting rights attached to shares [viii, ix]							
Class/type of shares if possible using the ISIN CODE	**Situation previous to the triggering transaction**		**Resulting situation after the triggering transaction**				
	Number of Shares	**Number of Voting Rights**	**Number of shares**	**Number of voting rights**		**% of voting rights** [x]	
			Direct	**Direct** [xi]	**Indirect** [xii]	**Direct**	**Indirect**
GB0000566504	64,496,096	64,496,096	65,448,933	65,448,933		2.97%	
US05545E2090	963,600	963,600	963,600	963,600		0.04%	

B: Qualifying Financial Instruments				
Resulting situation after the triggering transaction				
Type of financial instrument	**Expiration date** [xiii]	**Exercise/ Conversion Period** [xiv]	**Number of voting rights that may be acquired if the instrument is exercised/ converted.**	**% of voting rights**
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

C: Financial Instruments with similar economic effect to Qualifying Financial Instruments [xv, xvi]						
Resulting situation after the triggering transaction						
Type of financial instrument	**Exercise price**	**Expiration date** [xvii]	**Exercise/ Conversion period** [xviii]	**Number of voting rights instrument refers to**	**% of voting rights** [xix, xx]	
					Nominal	**Delta**
CFD	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,000	0.0001%	N/A

Total (A+B+C)	
Number of voting rights	**Percentage of voting rights**
66,415,533	3.01%

9. Chain of controlled undertakings through which the voting rights and/or the financial instruments are effectively held, if applicable: [xxi]
N/A

Proxy Voting:	
10. Name of the proxy holder:	Norges Bank
11. Number of voting rights proxy holder will cease to hold:	N/A
12. Date on which proxy holder will cease to hold voting rights:	N/A

13. Additional information:	None
14. Contact name:	Jonas Lexmark
15. Contact telephone number:	+47 24 07 31 34