

BHP Billiton
Level 28
BHP Billiton Centre
180 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia

bhpbilliton.com

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James Gerraty
Manager – Issuers, Melbourne
Australian Securities Exchange
GPO Box 1784Q
Melbourne Vic 3001

Dear James

We refer to discussions with ASX this morning about speculation in the media in relation to Woodside.

Ordinarily BHP Billiton does not comment on market speculation. However, BHP Billiton advises that the market is currently fully informed of all material information and is not aware of any basis for the market speculation. Consistent with completion of its off-market buy-back announced this morning, BHP Billiton has not been relying on the confidentiality exception in ASX Listing Rule 3.1A.

Yours sincerely,



Jane McAloon
Group Company Secretary