

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
December 19, 2006

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**Form 6-K**

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16  
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

December 18, 2006

**BHP BILLITON LIMITED**

(ABN 49 004 028 077)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

3000 AUSTRALIA

(Address of principal executive offices)

**BHP BILLITON PLC**

(REG. NO. 3196209)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

ENGLAND AND WALES

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organisation)

NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,

UNITED KINGDOM

(Address of principal executive offices)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:  Form 20-F  Form 40-F

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): [ ]

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): [ ]

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934: [ ] Yes [x] No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): n/a

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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: 18 December 2006

For Release: Immediately

**BHP BILLITON PLC - TRANSACTION IN SHARES**

BHP Billiton Limited announces that on 18 December 2006 it purchased 1,200,000 ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Plc at an average price of 947.109 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 62,710,000 of the ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc, for a total of 88,130,000 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 2,380,017,002.

For further information, please contact:

Investor Relations  
Mark Lidiard  
Office: +44 (0) 20 7802 4156

Company Secretary  
BHP Billiton Plc  
Robert Franklin

Company Secretary  
BHP Billiton Limited  
Jane McAloon

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Mobile: +44 (0) 77 6993 4942

Office: +44 (0) 20 7802 4116  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7824 302684

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](http://www.bhpbilliton.com)

**Australia**

Samantha Evans, Media Relations  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2898 Mobile: +61 400 693 915  
email: [Samantha.Evans@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Samantha.Evans@bhpbilliton.com)

Jane Belcher, Investor Relations  
Tel: +61 3 9609 3952 Mobile: +61 417 031 653  
email: [Jane.H.Belcher@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Jane.H.Belcher@bhpbilliton.com)

**United States**

Tracey Whitehead, Investor & Media Relations  
Tel: US +1 713 599 6100 or UK +44 20 7802 4031  
Mobile: +44 7917 648 093  
email: [Tracey.Whitehead@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Tracey.Whitehead@bhpbilliton.com)

**United Kingdom**

Mark Lidiard, Investor & Media Relations  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4156 Mobile: +44 7769 934 942  
email: [Mark.Lidiard@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Mark.Lidiard@bhpbilliton.com)

Illtud Harri, Media Relations  
Tel: +44 20 7802 4195 Mobile: +44 7920 237 246  
email: [Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Illtud.Harri@bhpbilliton.com)

**BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077**

Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne  
Victoria 3000  
Telephone +61 1300 554 757 Facsimile +61 3 9609 3015

**BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209**

Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place London SW1V 1BH United  
Kingdom  
Telephone +44 20 7802 4000 Facsimile +44 20 7802 4111

**The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia**

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc

Date: 18 December 2006

By: Karen Wood

Name: Karen Wood

Title: Group Company Secretary