

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
January 03, 2008

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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 14, 2007

**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

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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14 December 2007

Number 38/07

## SHARE BUY BACK PROGRAMME

BHP Billiton notes that, since the announcement of 8 November 2007 concerning market speculation in relation to the proposal for a potential combination between BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton Limited has continued to buy back ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc on the London Stock Exchange, as disclosed by BHP Billiton in daily announcements to the market.

BHP Billiton confirms that these purchases have been made by an independent third party on behalf of BHP Billiton under an irrevocable mandate. The mandate ended today and BHP Billiton will suspend the programme of buying on-market ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc as was announced on 7 February 2007 from the expiry of the mandate until further notice.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: [www.bhpbilliton.com](http://www.bhpbilliton.com)

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The directors of BHP Billiton accept responsibility for the information contained in this announcement. Having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this announcement is, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the directors of BHP Billiton, in accordance with the facts and contains no omission likely to affect its import.

**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: 14 December 2007

By: Jane McAloon

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Name: Jane McAloon  
Title: Group Company Secretary