

BHP BILLITON PLC  
Form 6-K  
May 25, 2007

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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

May 24, 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):

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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)(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: 24 May 2007

For Release: Immediately

**BHP BILLITON PLC - TRANSACTION IN SHARES**

BHP Billiton Plc announces that on 23 May 2007 it sold to Billiton ESOP Trust Ltd the following number of its ordinary shares of US\$0.50 each, which were previously held as treasury shares. These shares will be used to part-satisfy participants in its employee share schemes.

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Date of transfer:                      | 23 May 2007      |
| Number of ordinary shares transferred: | 150,000          |
| Sale price per share:                  | GBP12.109189     |
| Converted to USD at 1.9773:            | US\$3,591,524.91 |

Following the above sale, BHP Billiton Plc holds 25,010,000 of its ordinary shares as treasury shares and BHP Billiton Limited holds 23,811,714 of the ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc, a total of 48,821,714 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 2,317,640,288.

For further information, please contact:

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

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**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: 24 May 2007

By: Karen Wood

Name: Karen Wood

Title: Group Company Secretary