

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
May 17, 2011

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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

## FORM 6-K

### REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

May 16, 2011

| <b>Commission File Number</b> | <b>Translation of registrant's name into English; Address of principal executive offices</b> |
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|  | BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077)<br>180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA<br>3000 AUSTRALIA |
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|---|---|
| - | BHP Billiton Plc (REG. NO. 3196209)<br>NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON,<br>UNITED KINGDOM |
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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

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information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes  No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the  
registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-.

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Company Secretariat

16 May 2011

To:  
Australian Securities Exchange  
London Stock Exchange

cc:  
New York Stock Exchange  
JSE Limited

**BHP BILLITON PLC – TRANSACTION IN SHARES**

Name of entities  
BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
BHP Billiton Plc REG NO 3196209

BHP Billiton Limited announces that it today purchased 1,164,555 Ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Plc at an average price of 2,361.29 pence per Ordinary share. The highest price paid was 2,399.50 pence per Ordinary share and the lowest price paid was 2,316.00 pence per Ordinary share.

Following purchase, BHP Billiton Limited transferred its interest in the shares to BHP Billiton Plc for nil consideration and cancellation by BHP Billiton Plc.

Following the cancellation, the total number of BHP Billiton Plc Ordinary shares in issue (excluding shares held as treasury shares) will be 2,146,081,563.

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: 180 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia  
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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209  
Registered in England and Wales  
Registered Office: Neathouse Place  
London SW1V 1BH United Kingdom  
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

Members of the BHP Billiton group which 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.

Date : May 16, 2011

BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077) BHP Billiton  
Plc (REG. NO. 3196209)  
By: /s/ Jane McAloon  
Name: Jane McAloon  
Title: Group Company Secretary