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

July 16, 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)

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

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: 16 July 2007

For Release: Immediately

BHP BILLITON PLC - TRANSACTION IN SHARES

BHP Billiton Limited announces that on 16 July 2007 it purchased 500,000 ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Plc at an average price of 1510.344 pence per ordinary share.

Following the above transaction, BHP Billiton Plc holds 24,910,000 of its ordinary shares as treasury shares and BHP Billiton Limited holds 23,661,714 of the ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc, for a total of 48,571,714 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 2,298,240,288.

For further information, please contact:

Investor Relations	С
Mark Lidiard	B
Office: +44 (0) 20 7802 4156	R
Mobile: +44 (0) 77 6993 4942	

Company Secretary 3HP Billiton Plc Robert Franklin Company Secretary BHP Billiton Limited Jane McAloon Office: +61 3 9609 2445 Mobile: +61 409 214 397

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

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

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Australia

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

Jane Belcher, Investor Relations Tel: +61 3 9609 3952 Mobile: +61 417 031 653 email: 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

United Kingdom

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

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

South Africa

Alison Gilbert, Investor Relations Tel: SA +27 11 376 2121 or UK +44 20 7802 4183 email: Alison.Gilbert@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: 16 July 2007

By: Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon Title: Group Company Secretary