

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
December 21, 2010

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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

December 20, 2010

<u>Commission File Number</u>	<u>Translation of registrant's name into English; Address of principal executive offices</u>
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	BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077) 180 LONSDALE STREET, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 3000 AUSTRALIA
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-	BHP Billiton Plc (REG. NO. 3196209) NEATHOUSE PLACE, VICTORIA, LONDON, 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 December 2010

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 today it purchased 375,520 Ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Plc at an average price of 2,495.42 pence per Ordinary share. The highest price paid was 2,517.50 pence per Ordinary share and the lowest price paid was 2,480.50 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 2,200,285,989.

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

Australia  
Brendan Harris, Investor Relations  
Tel: +61 3 9609 4323 Mobile: +61 437 134 814  
email: [Brendan.Harris@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:Brendan.Harris@bhpbilliton.com)

Amanda Buckley, Media Relations  
Tel: +61 3 9609 2209 Mobile: +61 419 801 349

email: Amanda.Buckley@bhpbilliton.com

Leng Lau, Investor Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 4202 Mobile: +61 403 533 706

email: Leng.Y.Lau@bhpbilliton.com

Kelly Quirke, Media Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 2896 Mobile: +61 429 966 312

email: Kelly.Quirke@bhpbilliton.com

Fiona Martin, Media Relations

Tel: +61 3 9609 2211

email: Fiona.Martin2@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom & South Africa

Andre Liebenberg, Investor Relations

Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7920 236 974

email: Andre.Liebenberg@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom & Americas

Ruban Yogarajah, Media Relations

Tel: US +1 713 966 2907 or UK +44 20 7802 4033

Mobile: UK +44 7827 082 022

email: Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com

Americas

Scott Espenshade, Investor Relations

Tel: +1 713 599 6431 Mobile: +1 713 208 8565

email: Scott.Espenshade@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia

Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

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

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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 : December 20, 2010

BHP Billiton Limited (ABN 49 004 028 077)

By: /s/ Jane McAloon

Name: Jane McAloon

Title: Group Company Secretary