

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
May 27, 2004

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Date of

22 April 2004

BHP Billiton Limited

ABN 49 004 028 077

180 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Victoria 3000

Australia

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  | Form 40-F | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|--|----|-------------------------------------|

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

Issued by: BHP Billiton Plc

To:  
Company Announcements Office  
The London Stock Exchange

cc:  
New York Stock Exchange  
Swiss Stock Exchange  
New Zealand Stock Exchange  
Johannesburg Stock Exchange  
Deutsche Bank

Company Announcements Office  
The Australian Stock Exchange

Date: J2 April 2004

For Release: Immediately

Contact: Ines Watson + 44 (0)20 7802 4176

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Notification of Major Interests in Shares

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The following notification was received on 25 February 2004 by BHP Billiton Plc in a letter from Franklin Resources, Inc, dated 24 February 2004, relating to major interests in shares of BHP Billiton Plc as at 24 February 2004:

"S.198 Companies Act - Disclosure of Share Interests

We are acting on behalf of Franklin Resources, Inc. and its affiliates, which includes Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC and Templeton Worldwide, Inc. and its affiliates. Franklin Resources, Inc. and its affiliates perform investment management and advisory services for clients on a global basis.

We wish to advise you of interests in the share capital of your Company under management of Franklin Resources, Inc. and its affiliates on behalf of clients, as detailed in the attached schedule."

| SCHEDULE          |                    |               |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                   |                    |               |
|                   | BHP BILLITON PLC   |               |
|                   |                    |               |
|                   | Outstanding Shares | 2,468,147,002 |
|                   |                    |               |
| Registered Holder | No. of Shares      | % of Class    |

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|                               |            |         |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------|
|                               |            |         |
| Chase Nominees Ltd            |            |         |
| Woolgate House                | 54,213,610 | 2.1965% |
| Coleman Street                |            |         |
| London                        |            |         |
| EC2P 2HD                      |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
| Bank of New York (BONY)       |            |         |
| 3 Birchin Lane                | 611,137    | 0.0248% |
| LONDON                        |            |         |
| EC3V 9BY                      |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
| Northern Trust Co.            |            |         |
| 155 Bishopgate                | 2,788,806  | 0.1130% |
| LONDON EC2M 3XS               |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
| Citibank                      |            |         |
| LONDON                        | 838,203    | 0.0340% |
|                               |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
| State Street Bank & Trust Co. |            |         |
| London                        | 8,926,360  | 0.3617% |
|                               |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
| Royal Trust Corp of Canada    |            |         |
| London                        | 1,012,116  | 0.0410% |
|                               |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
| Mellon Bank                   |            |         |
| LONDON                        | 5,402,109  | 0.2189% |
|                               |            |         |
|                               |            |         |
| HSBC LONDON                   | 21,515     | 0.0009% |
|                               |            |         |
| TOTAL                         | 73,813,856 | 2.9907% |

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: Level 27, 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria  
3000  
Telephone +61 1300 554 757 Facsimile +61 3 9609 3015

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  
/s/ KAREN WOOD

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Karen Wood  
Title: Company Secretary  
Date:

22 April 2004