

BHP BILLITON LTD

Form 6-K

July 23, 2002

22 July 2002
Number: 41/02

DEMERGER OF BHP STEEL - BONUS ISSUE OF BHP BILLITON PLC SHARES

BHP Billiton today announces that holders of ordinary shares in BHP Billiton Plc will receive a bonus issue of 1 new BHP Billiton Plc share for each 15.5648 BHP Billiton Plc shares held. Fractional entitlements will be rounded up (to the nearest whole new BHP Billiton Plc share) if the fractional entitlement would represent half or more than half of a BHP Billiton Plc share, or otherwise rounded down. The shares will be issued on 22 July 2002 to holders of BHP Billiton Plc shares on the register as at Friday, 19 July 2002 (except for shareholders registered in the South African section of the register, where the bonus shares will be issued on 29 July 2002 to holders on the register as at Friday, 26 July 2002).

As previously advised, this bonus issue in favour of BHP Billiton Plc shareholders is being made to reflect the value distributed to BHP Billiton Limited shareholders as a result of the demerger of BHP Steel. The size of the bonus issue has been determined using the formula set out in the documents sent to shareholders in May 2002, and will result in the issue of approximately 148,999,530 new BHP Billiton Plc shares (subject to rounding of fractional entitlements).

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DEMERGER OF BHP STEEL - LISTING OF NEW BHP BILLITON PLC SHARES

Following the demerger of BHP Steel and the consequent issue of bonus shares to shareholders of BHP Billiton Plc, BHP Billiton confirms that 113,799,025 new ordinary shares of US\$0.50 each in BHP Billiton Plc have today been issued to holders of BHP Billiton Plc shares registered on the UK section of the register.

The new shares will rank pari passu in all respects with existing ordinary BHP Billiton Plc shares. A total of 2,432,946,910 ordinary shares are now in issue.

A further issue of approximately 35,200,505 shares will be made on 29 July 2002 to BHP Billiton Plc shareholders registered on the South African section of the register. An announcement of the exact number of shares issued will be made at that date.

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A member of the BHP Billiton group which is headquartered in Australia