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BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
March 22, 2005

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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 March 2005

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.

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Form 20-F

Form 40-F

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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

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Yes

No

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

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[BHP Billiton Logo]

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE TIME

IMMEDIATE

DATE

21 March 2005

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NUMBER 12/05

BHP BILLITON LODGES BIDDER'S STATEMENT FOR WMC RESOURCES LTD

BHP Billiton today lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission the Bidder's Statement for its cash offer of A\$7.85 per share for the entire issued capital of WMC Resources Ltd (WMC).

BHP Billiton intends to mail both the Bidder's Statement and WMC's Target's Statement to WMC shareholders from 29 March 2005.

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

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FURTHER INFORMATION FOR U.S. HOLDERS

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BHP Billiton will file the Bidder's Statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under cover of Form CB. Investors and holders of WMC securities are strongly advised to read the Bidder's Statement and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC, as well as any amendments and supplements to those documents, because they will contain important information. Investors and holders of WMC securities may obtain free copies of the informational document (when available), as well as other relevant documents filed with the SEC, at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). WMC will issue a target's statement in connection with the offer which investors and holders of WMC securities are strongly advised to read.

This communication is for information purposes only. It shall not constitute an offer to purchase, sell or exchange or the solicitation of an offer to purchase, sell or exchange any securities of WMC. The distribution of this communication may, in some countries, be restricted by law or regulation. Accordingly, persons who come into possession of this document should inform themselves of and observe these restrictions.

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077  
Registered in Australia  
Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street

BHP Billiton Plc Registered  
Registered in England and  
Neathouse Place

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A member 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.

BHP BILLITON LIMITED

/s/ KAREN WOOD  
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Karen Wood  
Title: Company Secretary  
Date: 22 March 2005