

BHP BILLITON LTD  
Form 6-K  
February 19, 2003  
Issued by: BHP Billiton Plc

To: Company Announcements Office  
The London Stock Exchange  
Old Broad Street  
London EC2N 1HP  
United Kingdom  
Company Announcements Office

cc: New York Stock Exchange  
Swiss Stock Exchange  
New Zealand Stock Exchange  
Johannesburg Stock Exchange  
Paris Bourse (Euronext)  
Deutsche Bank

The Australian Stock Exchange  
4th Floor, 20 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia

Date: 13 February 2003

For Release: Immediately

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Notification of Major Interests in Shares

The following notification was received today by BHP Billiton Plc in a letter from Putnam Investment Management, LLC and The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC dated 7 February 2003 relating to major interests in shares of BHP Billiton Plc as at 7 February 2003:

"Notification of the Holdings under Part VI of the Companies Act 1985, as amended (the "Companies Act") on the Disclosure of Interest in Shares

Putnam Investment Management, LLC and The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (together "Putnam") are hereby notifying you of certain holdings of its clients pursuant to the above legislation. Each Putnam entity is an investment advisor registered in the United States pursuant to the Investment Advisors Act of 1940.

As of February 7, 2003 clients of Putnam hold beneficial interests in 103,911,218 BHP Billiton Plc shares representing 4.210% of the shares outstanding. The shares are held by Putnam's clients for investment purposes only."

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia  
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BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

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The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia