

BHP BILLITON LTD
Form 6-K
February 27, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

16 January 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.

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 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

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|-----|--------------------------|--|----|-------------------------------------|
| 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):

Date 16 January 2004
Number 04/04

COURT DISMISSES OK TEDI PROCEEDINGS

BHP Billiton confirmed today that the Supreme Court of Victoria has approved the dismissal of proceedings against BHP Billiton and Ok Tedi Mining Limited on the basis of a settlement reached with the plaintiffs last month.

BHP Billiton Chief Legal Counsel and Head of External Affairs, John Fast, said he was pleased with the outcome of the case, which confirms that the company has at all times complied with its obligations under the 1996 Ok Tedi Settlement Agreement.

"Importantly, the settlement also confirms that there are no further unresolved or outstanding matters in relation to the original terms of the 1996 Settlement Agreement. This is consistent with the position taken by BHP Billiton at all times since 1996 and is the reason why we vigorously defended this action," Mr Fast said.

BHP Billiton completed its withdrawal from the Ok Tedi Copper Mine in Papua New Guinea in February 2002 with the transfer of its 52% equity stake to the PNG Sustainable Development Program Limited. The other current owners of the Ok Tedi Mine are the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Canadian Mining Company Inmet Mining Corporation.

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

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

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

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

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

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

Karen Wood
Title: Company Secretary
Date:

16 January 2004