BHP BILLITON PLC Form 6-K October 02, 2003

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 1

October 2003

BHP Billiton Plc

Registration Number 3196209

Neathouse Place

London SW1V 1BH

United Kingdom

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 X 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

| Yes | | | No | Х |
|---|--|--|----|---|
| If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule | | | | |
| 12g3-2(b): | | | | |

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Issued by: BHP Billiton Plc

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

Company Announcements Office The Australian Stock Exchange 4th Floor, 20 Bridge Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia cc: New York Stock Exchange Swiss Stock Exchange NZX Johannesburg Stock Exchange Euronext Deutsche Bank

Date: I October 2003

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

Notification of Major Interests in Shares

The following notification was received yesterday by BHP Billiton Plc in a communication from Old Mutual plc dated 30 August 2003 relating to major interests in shares of BHP Billiton Plc as at 26 September 2003:

"Please find notification pursuant to section 198 of the Companies Act 1985, that, as at 26th September 2003, Old Mutual plc and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, have an interest in 175,201,469 ordinary shares of the company representing 7.10% of the issued share capital. The shares are registered as per the attached schedule."

Registered holdings of BHP Billiton Plc share capital by Old Mutual Companies at 26 September 2003

| Total Shares issued | | 1 · · | Registered Holder | % of |
|------------------------|------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| | | | | <u>issued</u> shares |
| 2,468,147,002 | 94,459,396 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd | Old Mutual Life Assurance Company (South Africa) Ltd | 3.83% |
| | 134,668 | Stanlib Asset Management Ltd (not an Old Mutual Company) | Old Mutual Life Assurance Company (South Africa) Ltd | 0.01% |
| | 402,631 | | | 0.02% |

| | Prudential Portfolio Managers SA (Pty) Ltd (not an Old Mutual Company | Old Mutual Life Assurance Company (South Africa) Ltd | |
|------------|--|--|-------|
| 268,384 | PeregrineQuant (Pty) Ltd (Not an Old Mutual Company) | Old Mutual Life Assurance Company (South Africa) Ltd | 0.01% |
| 140,609 | Coronation Fund Managers Ltd (Not an Old Mutual Company) | Old Mutual Life Assurance Company (South Africa) Ltd | 0.01% |
| 2,538,073 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd | Old Mutual Unit Trusts (SA) Limited | 0.10% |
| 41,968,758 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd | Old Mutual Asset Managers (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (Managed Fund Client Assets) | 1.70% |
| 108,576 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd | Omnibon No 13 (Pty) Limited | 0.00% |
| 1,679,383 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd | Old Mutual Life Assurance Company (Namibia) Ltd | 0.07% |
| 232,849 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd | Old Mutual Holdings (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd | 0.01% |
| 833,851 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd | Old Mutual Asset Managers (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd (Managed Fund Client Assets) | 0.03% |
| 39,376 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd | Old Mutual Unit Trusts (Namibia) Limited | 0.00% |
| 3,705,874 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (Bermuda) Ltd | Old Mutual Global Asset Fund | 0.15% |
| 11,730,448 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (Bermuda) Ltd | Old Mutual South Africa Equity Trust Limited | 0.48% |
| 1,032,406 | Old Mutual Asset Managers (Bermuda) Ltd | Old Mutual South African Trust Plc | 0.04% |
| 27,935 | Quantitive Asset Management | ABSA Nominees | 0.00% |
| 3,217,485 | Quantitive Asset Management | Nedbank Nominees Ltd | 0.13% |
| 2,921,495 | | | 0.12% |

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| | Quantitive Asset Management | Standard Bank Nominees Ltd | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------|
| 11. | 5 Syfrets Securities | Syfrets Securities Nominees (Pty) Ltd | 0.00% |
| 627,72 | Franklin Templeton/NIB Investments | Nedcor Bank Nominees Ltd | 0.03% |
| 2,27 | 7 Old Mutual | Nedcor Bank Nominees | 0.00% |
| 1,972,80 | 5 BOE Private Clients | Standard Bank Nominees | 0.08% |
| 43,43 | BOE Private Clients | Registered Own Name | 0.00% |
| 1,388,83 | BOE Private Clients (NTRAC) | Nedcor Bank Nominees | 0.06% |
| 89,49 | BOE Fiduciary | Nedcor Bank Nominees | 0.00% |
| 1,936,84 | 8 Mutual & Federal Limited | Mutual & Federal Limited | 0.08% |
| 3,077,84 | 4 Quaystone Ltd | Standard Bank Nominees (Transvaal) (Pty) Limited | 0.12% |
| 295,84 | Quaystone Ltd | Nedcor Bank Nominees Ltd | 0.01% |
| 324,04 | 2 Quaystone Ltd | ABSA | 0.01% |
| 175,201,46 |) | | 7.10% |

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BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209

Registered in Australia Registered Office: 600 Bourke Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Telephone +61 3 9609 3333 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

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 PIC /s/ KAREN WOOD

Karen Wood Title: Company Secretary Date: 1 October 2003