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Date 4 April 2005
Number 14/05

BHP BILLITON ANNOUNCES FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL OF BID FOR WMC RESOURCES LTD

BHP Billiton advises that the Australian Treasurer has confirmed that there are no objections under the Australian Government's foreign investment policy to BHP Billiton's acquisition of WMC Resources Ltd. A copy of the Treasurer's announcement is attached.

The Treasurer's confirmation is subject to certain conditions which BHP Billiton has agreed to observe. As the conditions are acceptable to BHP Billiton, BHP Billiton will free its offer of the condition set out in clause 5.1(b) of the Bidder's Statement. This is the second condition to have been removed.

BHP Billiton Chief Executive Officer, Chip Goodyear, welcomed the announcement by the Treasurer of the Government's approval of its bid.

The offer is \$7.85 for each WMC Resources Ltd share and the closing date* of the offer is 7.30 pm (Melbourne time) on 6 May 2005.

*This date is indicative only and may change as permitted by the Australian Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)

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

AUSTRALIA

Jane Belcher, Investor Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 3952 Mobile: +61 417 031 653
email: Jane.H.Belcher@bhpbilliton.com

Tania Price, Media Relations
Tel: +61 3 9609 3815 Mobile: +61 419 152 780
email: Tania.Price@bhpbilliton.com

UNITED STATES

Tel: +1 713 599 6100 or +44 20 7802 4031
email: Mark.Lidiard@bhpbilliton.com

UNITED KINGDOM

Mark Lidiard, Investor & Media Relations
Tel: +44 20 7802 4156
email: Mark.Lidiard@bhpbilliton.com

Ariane Gentil, Media Relations
Tel: +44 20 7802 4177
email: Ariane.Gentil@bhpbilliton.com

SOUTH AFRICA

Michael Campbell, Investor & Media Relations
Tel: +27 11 376 3360 Mobile: +27 82 458 2587
email: Michael.J.Campbell@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077
Registered in Australia
Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

BHP Billiton Plc
Registered in England
Neathouse Place
London SW1V 1BH
Tel +44 20 7802

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

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FURTHER INFORMATION FOR U.S. HOLDERS

BHP Billiton has filed the Bidder's Statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under cover of Form CB. Investors and holders of WMC Resources 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 Resources 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. WMC Resources has issued a target's statement in connection with the offer which investors and holders of WMC Resources 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 Resources. 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.

[TREASURER GRAPHIC]

[PRESS RELEASE GRAPHIC]

TREASURER

NO. 025

www.treasurer.gov.au

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FIRB: BHP BILLITON GROUP/WMC

Exercising powers under the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 (the Act), I have decided that the Australian Government has no objection to the BHP Billiton Group's (BHPB) proposed acquisition of all the issued shares of WMC Resources Limited (WMC) provided that BHPB complies with the conditions set out in Attachment A.

These conditions are in addition to previous conditions imposed under the Act, all of which remain in place.

CANBERRA

4 April 2005

Contact: David Alexander
02 6277 7340

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ATTACHMENT A

BHPB's undertakings, observance of which is a condition under Section 25 (1A) of the FOREIGN ACQUISITIONS AND TAKEOVERS ACT 1975 (the Act):

1. BHPB will abide by all Australian federal and state laws and regulations relating to the mining and export of uranium;
2. BHPB will undertake prior consultations with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources on the terms of any and all marketing arrangements it enters into with third parties in respect of uranium, which will be subject to all regulatory requirements imposed as part of the Australian Government's regulations and disclosure rules relating to uranium sales out of Australia.

This condition will have effect indefinitely, subject to amendment of the Act or any revocation or amendment by the Treasurer.

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 PLC

/s/ Karen Wood

Karen Wood
Title: Company Secretary
Date: 5 April 2005