

BHP BILLITON LTD

Form 6-K

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BHP BILLITON ANNOUNCES EXTERNAL AUDITORS

At the time of the merger, BHP Billiton announced it would put its external audit to tender and would confine the tendering parties to those of its current auditors - KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers (previously joint auditors for Billiton) and Andersen (previously BHP's auditor).

The Board today announced the appointment of KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers as joint auditors from the commencement of the 2003 financial year.

The Risk Management & Audit Committee of the Company will work with all three existing auditors to ensure a smooth transition from Andersen. Membership of that Committee will, along with all other Committees of the Board, be reconstituted following the re-structure of the Board that was announced yesterday. Details of Committee membership will be announced at a later time.

In announcing the appointment of the auditors the Board reiterated current company policy relating to the performance of non-audit work by the statutory audit firms. The policy was implemented in 2001. Non-audit work is prohibited where independence may be compromised or conflicts arise.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Andersen for that firm's commitment and service to BHP and its shareholders over more than 60 years.

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

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