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To: Australian Securities Exchange
London Stock Exchange

cc: New York Stock Exchange
JSE Limited

SIR JOHN BUCHANAN

It is with profound sadness that the Board of BHP Billiton advises of the passing of Sir John Buchanan yesterday. Sir John served as a Non-Executive Director of BHP Billiton from 2003 up until the time of his death, and was the Senior Independent Director of BHP Billiton Plc.

BHP Billiton Chairman, Jac Nasser, paid tribute to Sir John.

“Sir John provided wise counsel to his fellow Directors and to management, and made an invaluable contribution to BHP Billiton. We have lost a highly respected and esteemed colleague who was greatly admired by those who worked with him.”

The Directors extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Sir John.

Rachel Agnew
Company Secretary

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077
Registered in Australia
Registered Office: 171 Collins Street Melbourne Victoria 3000

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209
Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place, London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom

The BHP Billiton Group is headquartered in Australia