



**NEWS RELEASE**

**XSTRATA'S OFFER NOT TO BE INCREASED**

Zug, 8 March 2005

Xstrata plc notes today's announcement by BHP Billiton of an agreed cash offer of AUD7.85 per share for all of the issued share capital of WMC Resources Ltd. In the light of this announcement, Xstrata confirms that it will not be increasing its unconditional offer of AUD7.00 per share due to close on 24 March 2005.

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