



## **BHP Group Limited**

BHP Group Limited ABN 49 004 028 077

Registered in Australia

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## **Exchange release**

**19 October 2024**

### **Samarco Update – Brazil Settlement Negotiations**

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BHP notes the recent press speculation in Brazil regarding the status of negotiations in Brazil between Samarco Mineração S.A. (**Samarco**), BHP Billiton Brasil Ltda (**BHP Brasil**) and Vale S.A. (**Vale**) (the **Companies**) and the Federal Government of Brazil, State of Minas Gerais, State of Espírito Santo, public prosecutors and public defenders (**Public Authorities**).

The Companies are continuing to negotiate a full and final settlement of the Framework Agreement obligations, the Federal Public Prosecution Office civil claim and other claims by the Public Authorities relating to Samarco's Fundão dam failure on 5 November 2015 and are considering the terms of a settlement proposal.

The negotiations between the parties are ongoing and no final agreement has been reached on the settlement amount or terms. Any settlement is subject to finalisation of the terms and conditions of a final settlement agreement, entry into final and definitive settlement documentation by the Companies and Public Authorities and approvals by the Boards of the Companies and by the Public Authorities.

The negotiations are being conducted by the Brazilian Federal Court of the 6<sup>th</sup> region (TRF-6) and the National Council of Justice in Brazil with the oversight of a court-appointed mediator and the participation of public prosecutors and public defenders who are representing interested parties in the negotiation process.

The parties are negotiating a settlement proposal that would provide a total financial value of approximately R\$170 billion<sup>1</sup> (US\$31.7 billion)<sup>2</sup> on a 100% basis to be delivered to the people, communities and environment impacted by the dam failure.

The final settlement is expected to provide reparation for the impacts of the dam failure and resolve the Federal Public Prosecution Office claim and all existing claims by the Public Authorities in relation to the dam failure.

The final settlement would:

- establish a new compensation and indemnification system that was designed with the collaboration and endorsement of the public defenders and prosecutors to provide compensation for eligible people in the affected regions. Individuals and small businesses who agree to opt-in to the settlement

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<sup>1</sup> Future financial obligations are presented on a real, undiscounted basis and will accrue inflation at IPCA inflation rate. Payments will be made in Brazilian Reais.

<sup>2</sup> USD for amount spent to 30 September 2024 is calculated based on actual transactional (historical) exchange rates related to funding provided to Fundação Renova (Renova Foundation) and future spend is calculated using 28 June 2024 BRL/USD exchange rate of 5.56.

will be compensated R\$30,000 per person<sup>1</sup> and eligible individual water damage claims will be compensated R\$13,000 per person<sup>1</sup>. This is in addition to other amounts outlined below that will provide benefits to people, communities and the environment impacted by the dam failure;

- provide compensation and performance obligations to complete the community resettlements and other socioenvironmental programs, including environmental remediation; and
- provide R\$8 billion<sup>1</sup> to eligible Indigenous People and Traditional Communities following a consultation process pursuant to best practices to be led by the Federal Government. This process will allow each Indigenous People and Traditional Community to decide how to address the collective impacts to their communities, including through payments to families and its members.

### Summary of financial arrangements

The settlement proposal incorporates amounts already invested to date plus future payments and obligations as follows:

- R\$38 billion (approximately US\$7.9 billion<sup>2</sup>) in amounts already spent to 30 September 2024 on remediation and compensation since 2016.
- R\$100 billion<sup>1</sup> (approximately US\$18.0 billion<sup>2</sup>) in instalments over 20 years to the Public Authorities, the relevant municipalities and Indigenous peoples and traditional communities (**Obligation to Pay**).
- Additional performance obligations for an estimated financial value of approximately R\$32 billion<sup>1</sup> (approximately US\$5.8 billion<sup>2</sup>) that will be carried out by Samarco in accordance with the terms of the settlement which will provide direct benefits to the people, communities and environment affected by the dam failure (**Obligations to Perform**).

The Obligations to Perform will include the establishment of a new compensation and indemnification system, commitment to remove a certain amount of tailings from the Doce River subject to a licencing process, ongoing monitoring for potential environmental contamination in certain areas of the Doce River and the transition of the Renova Foundation’s remaining programs to Samarco.

### Financial obligations<sup>1,2</sup>

Under a final settlement agreement, Samarco would be the primary obligor for the settlement obligations and BHP Brasil and Vale are each secondary obligors of any obligation that Samarco cannot fund or perform in proportion to their shareholding at the time of the dam failure, which is 50% each.

	BRL Billion (R\$)	USD Billion (US\$) <sup>2</sup>
Spent to date (as at 30 September 2024) (100%)	38	7.9
Obligation to Pay (100%)	100	18.0
Obligations to Perform (100%)	32	5.8
<b>Total Settlement Amount in the settlement proposal (100%)</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>31.7</b>
<b>Total – BHP Brasil share (50%)</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>15.9</b>

The settlement proposal is broadly aligned with the existing US\$6.5 billion provision based on the current assessment of the uncertainties associated with the execution of the Obligations to Perform and current estimates of the extent to which Samarco could directly fund settlement obligations. The provision remains subject to review and finalisation of the terms and conditions of a final and binding settlement agreement.



Under the terms of Samarco's Judicial Reorganisation Plan, Samarco's funding of remediation obligations will be capped at US\$1 billion for the period CY2024 to CY2030. To the extent that Samarco has a positive cash balance each year after meeting its various obligations including operating capital requirements, debt service and remediation obligations in line with the cap, BHP Brasil and Vale are able to direct 50% of Samarco's year end excess cash balance to provide further funding for remediation and compensation obligations. BHP Brasil and Vale will be required to provide funding to remediation obligations during this period to the extent that the funding amount required exceeds the US\$1 billion cap and any excess Samarco cash available.

**Other litigation not resolved by a final settlement**

A final settlement would not resolve the Australian class action complaint, United Kingdom group action complaint, the group action claim brought against certain Vale and Samarco entities in the Netherlands, criminal charges against Samarco, BHP Brasil, Vale and certain individuals, civil public actions commenced by private associations, including the civil public action concerning the use of Tanfloc for water treatment, trailing litigation from individuals (among others) and future or unknown claims which may arise from new information or damages in connection with the dam failure.

The trial for the United Kingdom group action complaint commences 21 October 2024. BHP will continue to defend the action which it believes is unnecessary because it duplicates matters already covered by the ongoing reparation work and legal proceedings in Brazil.

Authorised for release by Stefanie Wilkinson, Group General Counsel and Group Company Secretary

**Sponsor:** J.P. Morgan Equities South Africa Proprietary Limited

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