



Kon Vatskalis
MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

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NEW WATER PLANT OPENS AT RANGER

Minister for Mines and Energy Kon Vatskalis will today officially open a new \$28 million water treatment plant at the Ranger uranium mine, near Jabiru.

Minister Vatskalis said the plant will treat pond and process water stored at the Ranger mine site, purifying the water so that it can finally be released into the surrounding environment.

“This will mean a continuous reduction of water currently retained on the mine site. Strict monitoring by Territory and Commonwealth officials of all water downstream from the mine site will continue, with the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, and the Commonwealth’s Supervising Scientist playing a lead role,” he said.

The mine operator, Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) said the plant has a life of 20 years and will continue operating when mining production ends, becoming an integral part of the Ranger rehabilitation activities.

ERA’s Chief Executive, Harry Kenyon-Slaney said today’s event is an important step for the company’s environmental management.

“Typically there is about 1.5 metres of rainfall each year on the Ranger site, which has been in continuous operation for 25 years.

“The storage and management of water is one of Ranger’s biggest environmental challenges, surrounded as it is by the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park, on Aboriginal land,” he said.

The new plant can treat water at a rate of 7,000 tonnes a day for pond water, 4,000 tonnes a day for process water, or in a combined mode, 6,000 tonnes a day.

Final commissioning of the plant will be completed this month.

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