

**ERA****Energy Resources of Australia Ltd**

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ERA welcomes protesters to Ranger

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) continued to welcome public scrutiny at its Ranger operations today with a group of anti uranium protesters taking up the invitation to view the workings of the mine first hand.

Thirteen protesters, about two thirds the current population of the Jabiru protester camp according to police figures, were escorted around the site and inspected mining and milling operations as well as Ranger's retention ponds and tailings dam. Explanations on the proposed Jabiluka mine, water management, radiation and the company's commitment to improving the social welfare of the local Aboriginal community also took place.

Ranger is subject to a reporting structure governed by no less than fifty seven acts of legislation. This ensures that it is the most publicly monitored mine site in Australia.

"While the members of the group obviously hold a philosophy on uranium mining that is different to ERA, the group were keen to learn more about the uranium industry and the company's social and environmental activities," explained General Manager - Operations, Mr Ken Lonie.

"More importantly the visit illustrates that we have a number of avenues to ensure ERA's operations remain open and transparent to the industry, government and the wider public," continued Mr Lonie.

"About 12,000 tourist visits to the mine annually, our legislative requirements, and tours such as this all testify to an honest operation," concluded Mr Lonie.

The 79 sq km Ranger Project Area is leased by ERA from the Traditional Owners, similar to a tenant/landlord agreement. "Landlord" access to the Area is set out under a formal agreement signed by the Northern Land Council on behalf of the Traditional Owners.

Broadly this agreement provides unfettered Traditional Owner access to the Ranger Project Area, in particular for ceremonial purposes. Access to the five sq km operating site however, is guided by safety measures and due to this requires notification to and agreement by Ranger management. The Traditional Owners have continued to regularly inspect the Ranger mine site since operations commenced in 1980 and are always welcome.

For further information:

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