

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

ABN 71 008 550 865

Media Release and ASX announcement

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Jabiluka Mill Alternative Public Environment Report approved

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) today welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Warwick Parer, that the Public Environment Report (PER) on the Jabiluka Mill Alternative has now received Commonwealth environmental approval.

'This decision completes the Commonwealth approvals process under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act for the Jabiluka mine and for options to mill the ore either at the Jabiluka mine or at our existing facility at Ranger,' said Phillip Shirvington, Chief Executive of ERA.

ERA now has approval for the milling of Jabiluka ore at Jabiluka and returning all the tailings to the underground mine voids.

'The approval for the development of the Jabiluka mill was necessary because some Traditional Owners opposed ERA's original plan to send the ore from the Jabiluka mine to be processed at the Ranger mill, some 20 kilometres south of Jabiluka,' Mr Shirvington said.

Mr Shirvington said that the option of milling the Jabiluka ore at Ranger is more environmentally beneficial than milling the ore at Jabiluka. Therefore ERA, during the coming year, will seek to find common ground with the Traditional Owners, through their legal representatives, the Northern Land Council, on where the ore should be processed.

Mr Shirvington also noted that ERA has a further option for tailings disposal within the Jabiluka Mill Alternative. It involves cemented paste tailings being placed into purpose built pits on the site. This option requires further studies by ERA, which the Company is confident will have a positive outcome.

Mr Shirvington said that the development and operation of Jabiluka would generate some \$210 million in royalties for the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory without compromising the environment.

Jabiluka will meet the same high standards as the Ranger Mine which - according to the independent Supervising Scientist Group - has in 18 years of operation had no detrimental impact on the surrounding environment.

Development of the Jabiluka mine commenced in June 1998 and is now well advanced with the construction of the retention pond and the entrance to the underground mine expected to be completed prior to the onset of the wet season to enable construction of the decline to continue during the wet.

Development of the mine is expected to be completed by the end of 2000 with production to commence at the end of 2001.