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Media Release

Key rehabilitation milestones in sight

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ERA has reached a major milestone in its progressive rehabilitation program of the Ranger open cut mine.

For the first time tailings waste from the site's milling operations has been transferred directly to the mine's last open pit, Pit 3, following careful preparation to ready the pit for tailings storage.

This important step will facilitate a number of further key milestones for ERA over the coming months.

"In February we met a significant target in our water management system in line with our long term closure strategy," said Ranger mine General Manager Operations, Tim Eckersley.

"So far Pit 1 has been backfilled with tailings and preliminary rock capping put in place. As of last month, Pit 3 began receiving tailings directly from our processing mill, for permanent storage.

"In a couple of months we are scheduled to commission a dredge and infrastructure to transfer dredged material from the Tailings Storage Facility into Pit 3. We are also scheduled to begin brine storage in Pit 3 from the Brine Concentrator."

According to Mr Eckersley, to enable long term closure, Ranger's two former open cut pits are being converted into permanent repositories for the mine's tailings as required by the Ranger authorisations. Once all waste material, which is created during the mining of ore, is moved to the pits for final long term storage, the pits can be capped with rock and ultimately re-vegetated.

Meanwhile, ERA's Brine Concentrator is treating process water from the site's Tailings Storage Facility to reduce the operation's water inventory. Brine, which is the residue from that process, is scheduled to be moved to Pit 3 for permanent storage later this year.

"Last year we completed the initial backfill of Pit 3, with more than 33 million tonnes of waste rock placed into the base of the pit, and the installation of in-pit drainage and an extraction pump system to convert the pit into a storage repository for brine and tailings," Mr Eckersley said.

"We've installed extensive drainage works across the floor of the pit, while a water extraction bore system has been installed to transfer water removed from the pit to the Tailings Storage Facility.

"Later this year we are scheduled to commission a custom-designed, stainless steel dredge built in Queensland to dredge tailings from the Tailings Storage Facility for containment in Pit 3."

The recent activities demonstrate ERA's commitment to the rehabilitation of Ranger. Since 2012 ERA has invested \$378 million in rehabilitation and water management projects.



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Recent rehabilitation has seen the revegetation of an interim water management pond at Jabiluka, where more than 8000 seedlings have been planted on the site. The revegetation project was one in which ERA worked in close consultation with the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation as representatives of the Traditional Owners, the Mirarr People.

ERA's Ranger mine is in transition, having finished open cut mining in 2012 and now moving to a potential underground mine, Ranger 3 Deeps.

With open cut mining finishing at Ranger in 2012, ERA is committed to a closure plan to achieve full rehabilitation of the former mine and ensure no detrimental impact to the surrounding environment of Kakadu National Park over a period of 10,000 years.

About Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA)

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd is one of the nation's largest uranium producers and Australia's longest continually operating uranium mine.

ERA has an excellent track record of reliably supplying customers. Uranium has been mined at Ranger for three decades. Ranger mine is one of only three mines in the world to produce in excess of 110,000 tonnes of uranium oxide.

ERA's Ranger mine is located eight kilometres east of Jabiru and 260 kilometres east of Darwin, located in Australia's Northern Territory.

ERA is a major employer in the Northern Territory and the Alligator Rivers Region.

Located on the 79 square kilometre Ranger Project Area, Ranger mine is surrounded by, but separate from, the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park.

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