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## Media release

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### **Energy Resources of Australia completes open cut mining at Ranger mine after more than 30 years**

**7 December 2012**

Open cut mining has been completed at ERA's Ranger mine after more than 30 years of removing ore from open pits for processing at one of the world's longest continually producing uranium mines.

Mining teams at Ranger extracted the last of the ore from Pit 3 in the last week of November, several weeks ahead of schedule, with all in-situ reserves in the pit successfully mined.

ERA General Manager Operations Tim Eckersley said mining team members were to be commended on their strong efforts in safely and productively to completing mining in Pit 3.

"Mining performance this year has been very pleasing, our teams worked safely and efficiently to de water the pit following the wet season so we could gain access to the high grade ore at the bottom," Tim said.

"They then maintained these strong efforts to move material from the mine very effectively and ahead of the projected timeframe."

Open cut mining at ERA started in 1980, with mining in Pit 1 completed in late 1994.

Development of Pit 3 started in 1996 and mining of the Pit 3 ore body started in 1997.

During the period from 1997 to 2011, approximately 67,000 drummed tonnes of uranium oxide has been produced for export to power utilities around the globe to help power the world with nuclear energy.\*

Work on backfilling the pit has now started, with the first phase of these works expected to be completed by the end of 2014. During this time, 30 million tonnes of material will be backfilled into the pit as an important part of ERA's ongoing rehabilitation programme.

Construction of the Ranger 3 Deeps exploration decline to enable exploration drilling to further define the resource is on schedule. It's expected that exploration drilling will start in the second quarter of 2013.

ERA will in early 2013 submit a referral to regulators as the first step of assessment for the Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine.

Progress on the Brine Concentrator project to treat and reduce ERA's inventory of process water continues strongly. The facility is currently under construction and scheduled to be operational in the third quarter of 2013

*\*Figure compiled from ERA Annual Reports 1997-2011*



**ERA**

### **About Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA)**

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) 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 100,000 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.

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