

Stakeholder consultation



The Project will allow ongoing community investment at current levels, providing local and regional business certainty, diversity and resilience.

ERA engages with stakeholder groups through various fora. Consultation with the Mirarr Traditional Owners and community stakeholders is a key component of ERA's social performance standard. Company personnel are in regular contact with the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation (who represent the Mirarr), the Northern Land Council, the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy, the Commonwealth Supervising Scientist Division and the Commonwealth Department of Industry, both informally and through the stakeholder representative group known as the "Minesite Technical Committee".

Road users and tourism businesses are informed of mine traffic developments through associations such as the Transport Working Group, which is working with the Northern Territory Government to improve the Arnhem and Kakadu Highways.

ERA also provides quarterly business updates to a range of Jabiru stakeholders including local, Northern Territory and Australian Government agencies, local businesses/organisations and West Arnhem Regional Council.

Social impact assessment (SIA) process

Specialist consultants (Banarra Pty Ltd) undertook a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the Project, based on a review of extensive literature and a comprehensive community consultation program. The assessment examined the risks, benefits and contribution of the Project across key social and economic aspects. The consultation took place over nine

months from June 2013. Key participants included the Mirarr Traditional Owners, Jabiru residents, Aboriginal communities within the Alligator Rivers Region, local environmental groups, Australian and Northern Territory Government agencies, tourism groups and users of the Arnhem and Kakadu Highways.

The objectives of the consultation program were to: explain the Project to participants from local and regional communities; determine potential risks and opportunities associated with the Project; identify the concerns of participants about the Project; and identify appropriate strategies to realise potential opportunities and mitigate any concerns about the Project in the long term.

The SIA identified a number of risks and opportunities across 10 social aspects. These potential social benefits and impacts are discussed in more detail below.

Banarra, concluded that the Project "... has the potential for both positive and negative impacts, but overall, has greater potential to realise positive social outcomes."

Socio-economic

The local economy of Jabiru and the wider West Arnhem Region are dependent on ERA's operations at Ranger. The Project will allow ongoing community investment at current levels, providing local and regional business certainty, diversity and resilience. Maintaining Jabiru's population also directly benefits local service providers and business – sustaining community investment to current levels for services, infrastructure and community programs.

The Project will also maintain financial payments, through royalties, to all levels of Government and Aboriginal interests, in particular the Mirarr, at existing levels. The Project will generate an additional 180 – 280 jobs, with employees sourced locally and nationally.



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The SIA identified three areas in which the Project has the potential to generate cumulative social impacts and which invite coordinated and collaborative responses from key stakeholder organisations. These areas are:

- Sustainable community benefits from Ranger mine revenue and royalties. For example, a number of initiatives, including the Kakadu West Arnhem Social Trust-funded Children's Ground and the GAC funded Djidbidjibdi College, show early signs of providing sustainable benefits to the regional Aboriginal community.
- Sustained or enhanced investment in Jabiru will provide greater clarity about the town's future.
- Continuation or exacerbation of existing negative social impacts, which include substance abuse, antisocial behaviour, inequity of royalty distribution, and concern for water contamination.

Workforce behaviour

ERA has a strong focus on health and safety, particularly in relation to drugs and alcohol management, with a zero tolerance policy in place. All ERA employees and contractors are subject to random drug and alcohol testing,

Jabiru and the Alligator Rivers Region have a large indigenous population whose cultural heritage is of high significance. ERA employees and contractors undergo cultural heritage training, and follow policies and procedures to ensure the ongoing protection and respect for this heritage.

Community Support

ERA is committed to supporting the Jabiru and Alligator Rivers Region community through partnership initiatives such as the supply of power to Jabiru, Jabiru east, Mudginberri community; the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Foundation; partnership with the NT Department of Education and Children's Services and the West Arnhem College.

Fast Facts

- Community engagement is an important component of ERA's business.
- The SIA for the Project provided an opportunity for representatives of community groups and other interested parties to offer input.
- The Project aims to maintain ongoing community investment at current levels, providing local and regional business certainty, diversity and resilience.
- The Project will generate an additional 180 – 280 jobs, with employees sourced locally and nationally.
- ERA is committed to supporting the Jabiru and Alligator Rivers Region community through ongoing partnership initiatives.

Further reading:

Refer to Chapter 11 of the *ERA Ranger 3 Deeps Draft Environmental Impact Statement*.