

4 Stakeholder engagement



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Cover photograph: Nursery seedlings for revegetation being cared for by Kakadu Native Plant Supplies Staff

GLOSSARY

Below are key terms that are used in this section.

Key term	Definition
Environmental Requirements	The Ranger Environmental Requirements are attached to the S.41 Authority and set out Primary and Secondary Environmental Objectives establishing the principles by which the Ranger operation is to be conducted, closed and rehabilitated and the standards that are to be achieved.
Mine Closure Plan (MCP)	A dynamic plan presenting all past, present and future rehabilitation activities of the Ranger Project Area in order to demonstrate that closure activities will achieve the relevant Environmental Requirements. Submitted annually for approval, the plan provides updates of the preceding year.
Minesite Technical Committee (MTC)	<p>The Minesite Technical Committee, convened in accordance with Attachment A of the Working Arrangements for the Regulation of Uranium Mining in the Northern Territory dated 30 May 2005, is tasked with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing proposed and existing approvals and decisions under NT legislation • Reviewing technical information in relation to Ranger Mine, including monitoring data and environmental performance • Collaboratively developing standards for the protection of the environment • Developing strategies to address emerging issues <p>The MTC consists of the representatives of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, the Supervising Scientist, ERA and the Northern Land Council. Representatives of the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, and Resources may also attend MTC meetings.</p>
Mirarr	<p>Mirarr is a patrilineal descent group. Descent groups are often called 'clans' in English and kunmokurrkurr in Kundjeyhmi language. There are several Mirarr clans with each one distinguished by the language they historically spoke (e.g. Mirarr Kundjeyhmi, Mirarr Urningangk, Mirarr Erre).</p> <p>The Mirarr are the Traditional Owners of the land encompassing the RPA.</p>

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

Below are abbreviations and acronyms that are used in this section.

Abbreviation/ Acronym	Description
ACF	Australian Conservation Foundation
AFANT	Amateur Fisherman's Association (NT)
ARRAC	Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee
ARRTC	Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investment Commission
ASNO	Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office
DISR	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources
DITT	Department of Industry Tourism and Trade
DPMC	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
EDONT	Environmental Defenders Office
ER(s)	Environmental Requirements
ERA	Energy Resources of Australia Ltd
GAC	Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
JKL	Jabiru Kalbolkmakmen Limited
KKN	Key Knowledge Needs
MCP	Mine Closure Plan
MERRG	Monitoring Evaluation and Research Review Group
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTC	Minesite Technical Committee
NGO	Non-government Organisations
NLC	Northern Land Council
NP	National Park
NT	Northern Territory
RCCF	Ranger Closure Consultative Forum
RPA	Ranger Project Area
RWD	Ranger Water Dam Formerly Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) or Tailings Dam
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SSB	Supervising Scientist Branch
TSF	Former Tailings Storage Facility now Ranger Water Dam (RWD)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WA	Western Australia

Abbreviation/ Acronym	Description
WARC	West Arnhem Regional Council
WASWG	Water and Sediment Working Group

4 OVERVIEW OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The ERA approach to stakeholder engagement is centered on maintaining our relationships based on mutual respect, active partnership, transparency and long-term commitment. ERA will continue to connect with and respect Mirarr culture and the aspirations of local communities as we create a positive legacy and achieve world class, sustainable rehabilitation of the Ranger mine.

Our approach to stakeholder engagement has fostered collaboration and cooperation with a diverse range of stakeholders on the following key aspects of closure:

- the overall planning process and schedule;
- engineering and design criteria for technical aspects of closure such as water treatment, tailings transfer, backfilling of mine pits and the final landform design;
- post-mining land use, closure objectives and closure completion criteria;
- legal requirements and obligations associated with the various agreements for the mine and Jabiru township; and
- land tenure and governance.

Table 4.1 identifies the main external stakeholders engaged on the Ranger Mine closure and rehabilitation. Figure 4-1 demonstrates the linkages between stakeholders and ERA. The discussions with stakeholders are coordinated through the forums listed in Table 4-2. Appendix 4.1 provides a register of stakeholder engagements over the last 10 years.

All ERA employees and contractors are respectful of stakeholders and are engaged in delivering a positive legacy for the rehabilitation of the Ranger Mine.

Consultation with stakeholders is undertaken in accordance with an engagement framework that includes:

- ERA Communities Policy;
- ERA Communities and Social Performance Plan;
- ERA Communication Standard;
- ERA Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (ERA 2018);
- ERA Community Consultation, Engagement and Communication work instruction; and
- a number of existing engagement forums and tools.

Table 4-1 Ranger Mine closure stakeholders

Stakeholder group	Description
Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal groups	Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town (GAC JT) Northern Land Council (NLC) Djabulukgu Association Gagudju Association Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation
Federal Government	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO) Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Department of Foreign Affairs Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) Minister for Industry and Science Minister for Resources Parks Australia
Northern Territory Government	Department of Education Department of Health Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Minister for Mining and Industry Jabiru Kabolkmakmen Limited Northern Territory Treasury
Regional Council	West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC)
Primary regulatory committee	Minesite Technical Committee (MTC)
Regional scientific overview committee	Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC)
Regional overview committee	Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee (ARRAC)
International agencies	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) European Parliament standing committees World Heritage Committee of UNESCO

Stakeholder group	Description
Other NGOs (non-government organisations)	Amateur Fishermen's Association NT (AFANT) Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Environmental Defenders Office NT (EDONT) Minerals Council of Australia - NT Northern Territory Environment Centre World Wildlife Fund
Business community	Rio Tinto Uranium Rio Tinto Limited Shareholders Suppliers
Local community	Jabiru businesses/organisations Jabiru Kalbolkmakmen Limited (JKL) Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town Local social and recreational groups Residents Tourists

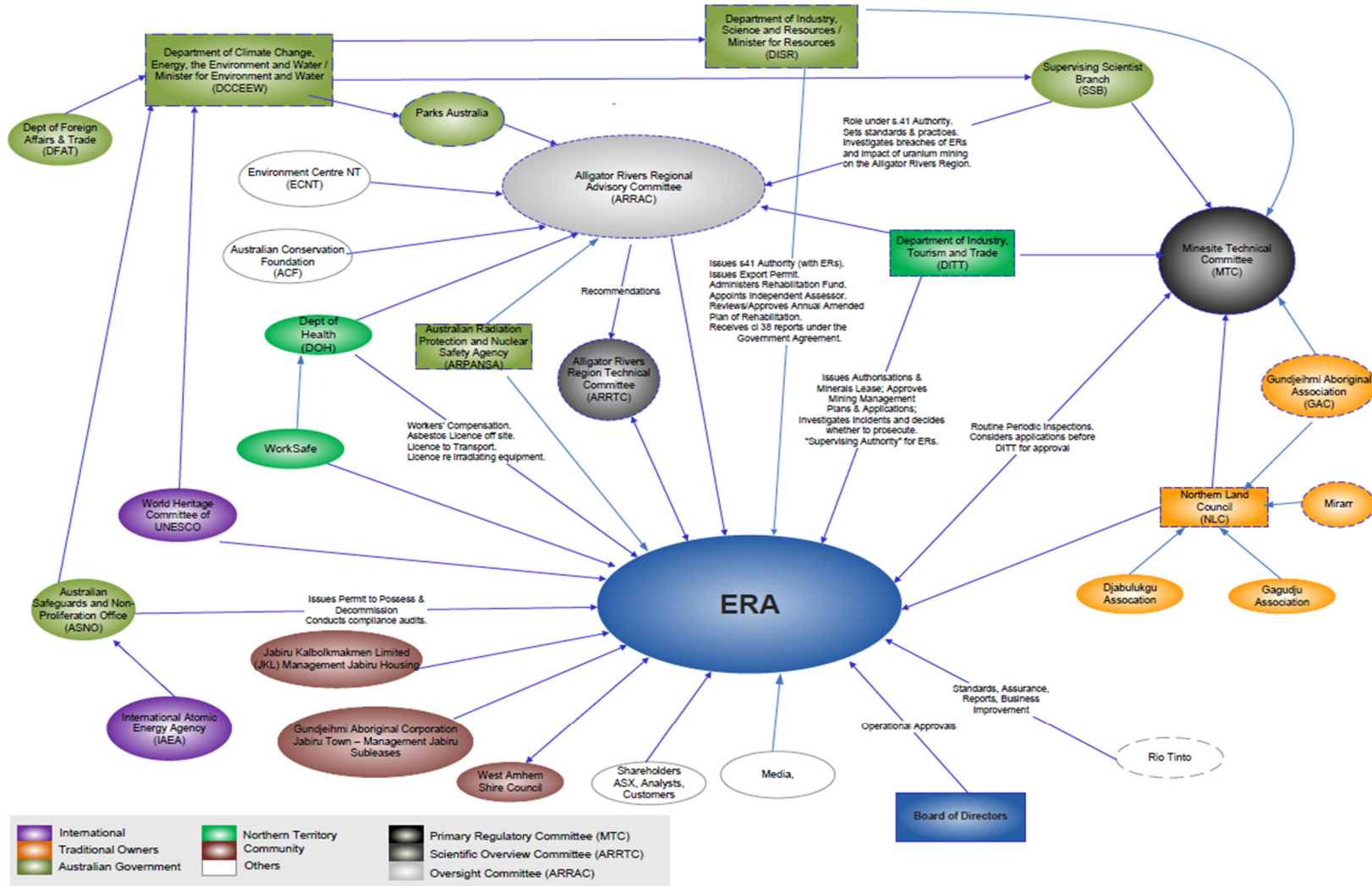


Figure 4-1 Ranger Mine Stakeholder Matrix

Table 4-2 Stakeholder Engagement Forums

Engagement forum	Frequency	Comment
Minesite Technical Committee (MTC)	Bi-annually (additional meetings held as required)	The MTC is the formal forum for key advisory and stakeholder groups to discuss and resolve technical environmental management matters relating to the closure of the Ranger Mine, regulatory functions of the NT Government, functions of the Supervisory Scientist, and the views of the Mirarr and other affected Aboriginal people. It includes representatives of the Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) (Chair), Commonwealth Department of the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Supervising Scientific Branch (SSB), Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA), Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) and the Northern Land Council (NLC) (the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science & Resources (DISR) are invited as an observer).
Ranger Closure Consultative Forum (RCCF)	Monthly	The RCCF is a formal forum for ERA to discuss progress and matters relating to the closure of the Ranger Mine with the key stakeholder group representatives from the DISR, SSB, DITT, and the NLC/GAC. The purpose of the forum is to provide ongoing updates of closure activities, confidence in the closure strategy for achieving environmental requirements, information on upcoming approvals, and to receive feedback from stakeholders on studies, applications and the close-out progress of Key Knowledge Needs (KKN).
Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC)	Bi-annually	The ARRTC was established under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978</i> and reviews the appropriateness and quality of scientific research conducted by Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government agencies, ERA and others relating to protection of the environment from the potential impacts of uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region. Members include an independent Chairperson, the Supervising Scientist, independent scientific members, a member representing the NLC and a member representing environmental non-government organisations. http://www.environment.gov.au/science/supervising-scientist/communication/committees/arrtc
Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee (ARRAC)	Bi-annually	The ARRAC was established under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978</i> and facilitates communication between Government, industry and community stakeholders on environmental issues associated with uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region. Members include an independent Chairperson, the Supervising Scientist, representatives from several Northern Territory Government departments, Office of the Administrator of the Northern Territory, several Commonwealth Government departments, non-government organisations (NGOs), ERA and other uranium mining/exploration companies that operate in the region.

Engagement forum	Frequency	Comment
		http://www.environment.gov.au/science/supervising-scientist/communication/committees/arrac .
Ecosystem Restoration Forum	As required, several per year	Communication and consultation with stakeholders focusing on ecosystem restoration closure criteria and KKNs.
Investor briefings	Bi-annually	Briefings provided by the ERA Chief Executive regarding ERA operations to all company shareholders.
Relationship Committee	Quarterly	The Relationship Committee was established under the Ranger Mining Agreement between ERA and the NLC in 2013 to review processes and ensure effective information sharing between ERA and the Mirarr Traditional Owners and their representatives.
Ministerial briefings	Regularly as required	Briefings are provided to both Federal and Northern Territory Ministers and senior advisors on operations of the Ranger Mine, including aspects of closure.
Kakadu Board of Management	Quarterly, ERA update provided bi-annually	Kakadu National Park (NP) is a park jointly managed by Parks Australia and the Traditional Owners of Kakadu. A board of management has been established as part of the governance structure for the NP and consists of Commonwealth Government representatives, Park Management and Traditional Owners from each region in the NP. ERA provides a regular operations update, including mine closure status, and consults with the broader Indigenous population through this forum.
State of the Nation	Quarterly	Presentations and question and answer sessions provided to all ERA personnel and contractors on ERA operations by either the Chief Executive or General Manager Operations including aspects of closure, Jabiru and stakeholder engagement.
Closure Criteria Working Group	No longer required	The Closure Criteria Working Group was established by the MTC for the purpose of developing the closure criteria for the rehabilitation of the Ranger Mine. The Closure Criteria Working Group also had sub-groups responsible for the development of the technical criteria for each of the following elements: landform, radiation, water and sediment, flora and fauna, soils and cultural. The MTC decided that closure criteria had progressed enough that this working group was no longer required. Rather, the specific technical groups would continue to develop criteria and report directly into the MTC.
Water and Sediment Working Group (WASWG)	No longer required	Communication and consultation with stakeholders focusing on surface water and sediment closure criteria and KKNs. These discussions now occur in each of the above-mentioned relevant forums.

Engagement forum	Frequency	Comment
Monitoring Evaluation and Research Review Group (MERRG)	No longer required	MERRG was formed in response to the submission of the application to progress Pit 1 final landform, in order to further communicate and consult with stakeholders regarding Pit 1 revegetation monitoring activities. Pit 1 has now undergone initial rehabilitation and monitoring success is reported in the above-mentioned relevant forums.

4.1 Engagement with Traditional Owners

ERA are committed to engaging with the Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal groups through our established engagement processes such as:

- In January 2013 a suite of agreements covering the Ranger Project Area were signed by the Mirarr Traditional Owners, ERA, the Northern Land Council, and the Commonwealth Government. These agreements cover the mining operations at the time and a range of pre-2013 issues. They also provide a structured approach for ongoing engagement and collaboration between the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) and ERA.
- The 2013 agreements resulted in the formation of a relationship committee with ERA to promote information sharing and collaboration and an agreed approach to increasing opportunities for local Aboriginal participation in business development, training and employment.
- ERA engages GAC and Mirarr Traditional Owners through other channels (e.g. Cultural Reconnection Steering Committee) to discuss and negotiate on matters including water management, cultural heritage and environmental protection, employment and training, housing and town planning, involvement in decision making processes and royalties.
- The GAC and ERA are represented on the Kakadu West Arnhem Social Trust and each contribute funds on an annual basis.
- The Mirarr Traditional Owners are also represented via the GAC on the Closure Criteria Committee Working Group and are formal members of the Ranger Minesite Technical Committee (MTC).

4.2 Managing socio-economic impacts

The Ranger Mine has been a significant contributor to the socio-economic life of Jabiru, the West Arnhem region and the Northern Territory more broadly for more than 40 years. This has been through economic inputs and social aspects such as its residential workforce and community involvement.

The potential socio-economic impacts of the closure of the Ranger Mine have been the subject of considerable engagement with key stakeholders.

The contributions by ERA were documented in the Jabiru Social Impact Assessment (SIA) in July 2017. The ongoing participation in the Jabiru Taskforce by ERA, the outcomes of the Ranger closure feasibility study, and the funding commitment from the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments to support implementation of the Jabiru Masterplan have contributed to a clearer understanding of ERA's intended contribution to the community through the rehabilitation period.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the future of Jabiru Township between the GAC, the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, and ERA was signed in August

2019. The MOU commits the signatory parties to support the vision for Jabiru and the contribution each will make, including ERA. ERA will play an important role in working with stakeholders to agree a clear plan for Jabiru remediation activities and transition.

ERA acknowledge that considerable work remains to be done in planning for life beyond Ranger and agreeing how this is undertaken is the particular focus of the next phase of stakeholder engagement.

REFERENCES

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) 1981. *ERA Annual Report 1981*. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA). Available at <http://www.energyres.com.au/media/1981-annual-report/> [Accessed December 2016].

Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) 2018. *Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan*. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA), Darwin.

APPENDIX 4.1: RANGER MINE CLOSURE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REGISTER

30 JUNE 2022 – 1 JULY 2012