

ABN 71 008 550 865 A member of the Rio Tinto Group Head office Level 3,Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin NT 0800 GPO Box 2394, Darwin NT 0801, Australia T +61 8 8924 3500 F +61 8 8924 3555

Ranger mine Locked Bag 1, Jabiru NT 0886 Australia T +61 8 8938 1211 F +61 8 8938 1203

www.energyres.com.au

# ASX Announcement

## 3 October 2014

## ERA PROGRESSES RANGER 3 DEEPS APPROVALS

- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine has been lodged with the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment.
- Lodgement of Draft Environmental Impact Statement is an important milestone in the approvals process for the project.
- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement assesses the environmental and social impacts of the Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine and outlines the proposed safeguards and mitigation measures to manage potential impacts from underground development.
- The Prefeasibility Study for the Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine is on schedule to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 2014 and considered by the ERA Board in the first quarter of 2015.

Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) has today lodged with the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine (the Project).

The document is an important milestone in the approvals process for the Project. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is the result of significant stakeholder consultation, research and studies undertaken by the Company in conjunction with a range of specialists.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement advises that the construction and operation of the Project would take place over a period of approximately five years in accordance with ERA's current mining authorisation, which expires on 8 January 2021.

The Project has a significantly smaller environmental footprint than the previous open cut mines on the Ranger Project Area.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement assesses the environmental and social impacts of the Project and outlines the proposed safeguards and mitigation measures to manage potential impacts from underground development.

ERA commenced a Prefeasibility Study to determine the viability of Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine in July 2012. The study is on schedule to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 2014 and considered by the ERA Board in the first quarter of 2015.

ERA is targeting first production from the Project in late 2015, subject to Board and regulatory approval.

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be made available on ERA's website (<u>www.energyres.com.au</u>) and the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority website (<u>www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/envirocomment</u>) from 4 October 2014. Hard copies will also be made available at a number of advertised locations.

### About Energy Resources of Australia Ltd

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 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.

For further information, please contact:

#### Media Relations

Carl Kitchen Office: +61 (0) 8 8924 3550 Mobile: +61 (0) 401 691 342 Email: carl.kitchen@era.riotinto.com

Daniel Hall Office: +61 (0) 8 8924 3514 Mobile: +61 (0) 457 532 270 Email: <u>daniel.hall@era.riotinto.com</u>

Website:www.energyres.com.auTwitter:Follow @ERARangerMine on Twitter

#### Investor Relations

Rachel Storrs Office: +61 (0) 3 9283 3628 Mobile: +61 (0) 417 401 018 Email: <u>rachel.storrs@riotinto.com</u>