



**Wednesday 16 January 2013**

## **ASX Announcement**

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### **ERA lodges referral in relation to the proposed Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine**

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) has formally commenced the statutory approval process for the proposed Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine.

ERA has today lodged a referral with the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. In addition, ERA has separately lodged a notice of intent with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The discovery of the Ranger 3 Deeps resource was announced by ERA in 2009.

ERA is investing \$120 million to construct an exploration decline to further define the Ranger 3 Deeps resource. Construction of the exploration decline began in May 2012 with closed spaced exploration drilling expected to commence in Quarter 2 2013.

ERA has allocated an additional \$57 million for a prefeasibility study into the potential development of an underground mine. The prefeasibility study, along with the construction of the Ranger 3 Deeps exploration decline and closed spaced exploration drilling, will proceed in parallel with the statutory approval process for the proposed underground mine.

A full copy of the referral for the Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine project will shortly be available on SEWPaC's website <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html> and further details about the project are available on ERA's website [www.energyres.com.au](http://www.energyres.com.au).

#### **About 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.

For further information, please contact:

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