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Media Release

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ERA promotes safely sharing the roads with heavy vehicles

Sharing roads and highways with heavy vehicles is a regular part of driving in the Northern Territory, and in many parts of Australia. Enhancing skills in driving alongside these vehicles is one way we can decrease the likelihood of being involved in a road accident.

As part of its ongoing commitment to promote greater road safety awareness and driver vigilance, ERA in conjunction with the NT Government's Department of Lands and Planning's Transport Safety Division, the NT Road Transport Association and transport company Kalari, has this month coordinated a series of activities designed to equip its workforce and Jabiru students and residents with the information, awareness and skills to be safer and more alert drivers.

****As part of this series of activities, ERA invites interested media to come along to Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex on Friday March 16, anytime between 10am and 12pm to test out the Kalari heavy vehicle simulator, which provides a realistic experience of what it's like to be behind the controls of a heavy vehicle.**

The Kalari simulator provides drivers with the ability to;

- Replicate scenarios that drivers may not have experienced – such as blown tyres, oil pressure failure and slippery road conditions.
- Gain valuable insights into road safety to be better prepared for sharing the roads with heavy vehicles in a safe manner.

ERA works constantly to raise standards around safer driving practices among its workforce, and takes an active role in promoting road safety in the broader community of the Jabiru region through working with Road Safe NT to foster participation in road safety forums.

The 260km light vehicle commute from Ranger mine near Jabiru to Darwin along the Arnhem and Stuart highways represents a bigger risk of ERA's people coming to harm than anything else we do.

As reflected in disturbing statistics from an NT Transport Safety Division 2011 report, in the last 10 years between 2001 to 2010, 505 people have died on Territory roads and 5,040 people were seriously injured (treated and taken to hospital).

On average, over the last 10 years: 51 people die each year (nearly one person per week); and 504 people are seriously injured each year, requiring hospitalisation.

ERA also encourages Territory road users to take advantage of the safe driving tips the company promotes through its Safe Driving DVD, available for view through ERA's website; <http://www.energyres.com.au/whatwedo/2728.asp>

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For further information on the company's activities please access ERA's website at www.energyres.com.au