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ERA Statement: Response to Reports on Cancer Cluster

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ERA notes recent media reports following an article in the Medical Journal of Australia which reviewed a Northern Territory Health Department study into a cancer cluster in the Gunbalanya-Kakadu region.

The article in the Medical Journal of Australia questions whether the Ranger mine may have contributed to the cancer cluster. ERA does not believe this to be the case. This view is supported by the Northern Territory Health Department's report published in November 2020 which found that:

“Even under the worst case scenario, exposure to environmental ionizing radiation, including any originating in the Ranger uranium mine, could explain little, if any, of the higher incidence of cancers in the Gunbalaya-Kakadu population.”

ERA also notes that Ranger is located approximately 35km (in a straight line) from Gunbalanya where many of the cases have been observed. Radiation monitoring has been conducted by ERA over many years at locations close to the Ranger mine, including the town of Jabiru which is 8km from Ranger. The results of this monitoring, reported to various Government agencies, demonstrate that radiation levels in the vicinity of Ranger are at, or very near to, normal background levels and well below any regulatory public dose limits.

The Northern Territory Health Department study suggested that a possible cause for at least some of the excess cancer rates may be lifestyle related. The oversight of health issues in the Gunbalanya-Kakadu region is appropriately a matter for the NT health authorities, with input from local communities.

ERA's priority has always been people and safety and this focus extends to all the local communities in which we live and operate.

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About Energy Resources of Australia Ltd

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) has been one of the nation's largest uranium oxide producers and operated the Ranger mine, Australia's longest continually operating uranium mine.

The operations of ERA are located on Aboriginal land and surrounded by, but separate from, Kakadu National Park. ERA respectfully acknowledges the Mirarr, Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Ranger mine is situated.

Together, ERA provides clean energy to the world and cares for people and country.

ERA has an excellent track record of safely and reliably supplying customers. Uranium has been mined at Ranger for almost forty years. During that time, Ranger has produced in excess of 132,000 tonnes of uranium oxide.

ERA's Ranger mine (100%) is located eight kilometres east of Jabiru and 260 kilometres east of Darwin, in Australia's Northern Territory. ERA also holds title to the Jabiluka Mineral Lease (100%). ERA is a major employer in the Northern Territory and the Alligator Rivers Region.

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