



# Alternatives

ERA has employed Best Practicable Technology (BPT) process to consider project scale alternatives, and for developing and optimising key elements of the Project.

### Best Practicable Technology

The BPT tool was developed from the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development to provide a national context to the best practicable technology for the Ranger Project Area. It is used to select options that reasonably achieve the maximum environmental benefit with the most efficient allocation of resources. The options are evaluated against criteria that span, technical, environmental, health and safety, cultural, social and economic aspects.

ERA has employed the BPT process to consider project scale alternatives, and for developing and optimising key elements of the Project. Viable BPT options provide the basis for the Project description and the subsequent risk assessments; non-viable options are those Project alternatives not progressed.

Two possible but non-viable alternatives to the proposed Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine exist.

They are to;

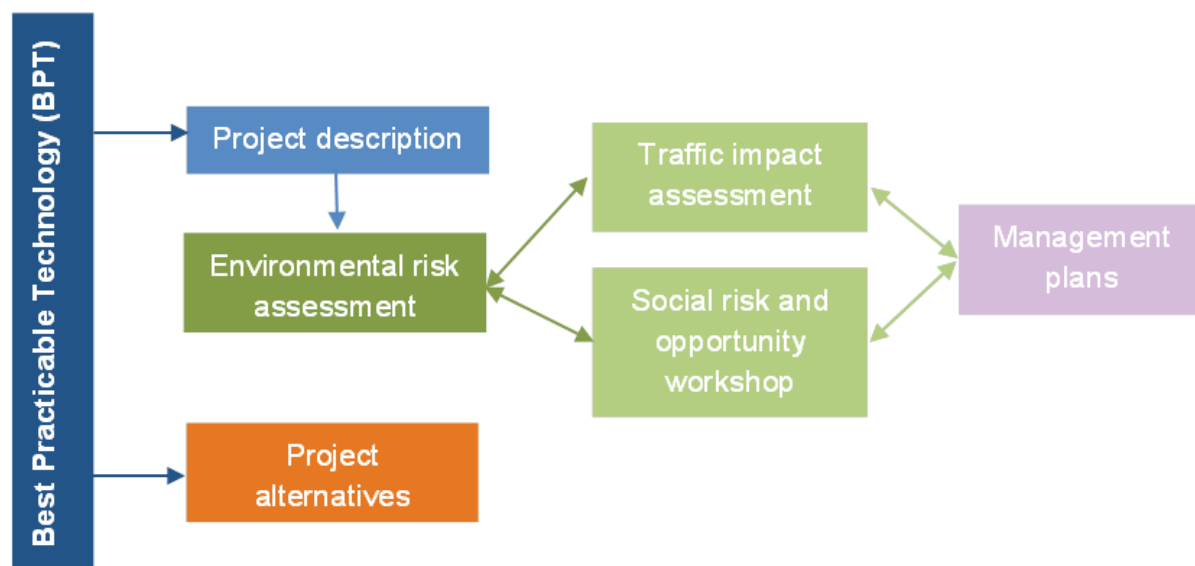
- Mine the Ranger 3 Deeps resource using an open pit method; or
- Not proceed with the Project, referred to as the no proposed action option.

Open pit mining is not feasible for the following reasons:

- Significant surface disturbance would be required to accommodate a pit large enough to access the ore.
- The volumes of waste rock, the intrusion on existing plant infrastructure, and proximity to Magela Creek.
- It is uneconomic to access the deeply deposited ore body using conventional open pit mining methods.

Under the no proposed action option:

- The Ranger 3 Deeps resource would not be mined, and existing stockpiled low grade ore would continue to be processed while economically viable.
- Employment levels would remain similar to, or decline from, the current levels of employment until 2021, and then progressively decline over a 5 year period to 2026 as the decommissioning phase advances.





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- The regional employment benefit of between 180 and 280 new jobs for construction and operation of the Project over a five year period would not be realised.
- The economic benefit from the capital development of Project infrastructure and the increased production of uranium oxide would not be realised, with declining revenues impacting on ERA's capacity to continue its current level of community support.
- The environmental studies for the Project indicate very low potential impacts, and thus a similar level of potential environmental impact exists regardless of whether the Project proceeds or not.

## Fast Facts

- Best Practicable Technology (BPT) is an options analysis tool, developed from the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.
- The purpose of BPT is to select options that reasonably achieve the maximum environmental benefit with the most efficient allocation of resources.
- Viable BPT options provide the basis for the Project description and the subsequent risk assessments.
- Non-viable options are those Project alternatives not progressed.



Projected surface disturbance required under an open pit mining scenario

## Further reading:

Refer to Chapter 4 of the *ERA Ranger 3 Deeps Draft Environmental Impact Statement*.