

## **JABILUKA SUPREME COURT CHALLENGE UNDERWAY**

**21 JULY 1998 : IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The traditional owners of the Jabiluka lease area are today appearing in the Northern Territory Supreme Court in a further attempt to halt preliminary construction at the site of the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine.

Senior Traditional Owner, Yvonne Margarula, is arguing that construction should be halted at least until all approval processes are completed.

Executive Officer of the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, Jacqui Katona, said today:

"Both the Territory and Commonwealth Governments have breached their responsibility to protect the environmental and cultural values of the Kakadu region. We are facing the ridiculous situation of construction proceeding for a mine which has no approval for any sort of milling facility. We hope the Court sees the plain sense of halting construction until all cultural and environmental approval processes are completed."

"When Senator Hill was recently questioned about the ramifications of allowing construction to proceed when approval for milling at Jabiluka could be rejected, he responded by saying that this was a 'business decision' for ERA. On the contrary, we believe this issue of international significance is a decision for duly elected Territory and Commonwealth governments."

"It has also become clear that many of the 'stringent conditions' which Senator Hill and Senator Parer placed on ERA last year have not been met by the mine operations. This entire episode is a travesty involving government mismanagement. Mirrar land is being destroyed by negligence, incompetence and greed."

The Court proceedings are expected to last for two days.

For information and comment contact Jacqui Katona on (0417) 814470.