

ALP PROMISE TO STOP JABILUKA

September 2, 1998

The Australian Labor Party has today officially declared their intention to stop the Jabiluka uranium mine proposal upon winning Government in the forthcoming Federal Election.

In a joint letter from Shadow Ministers Stephen Smith and Duncan Kerr to Mirrar Senior Traditional Owner Yvonne Margarula, the ALP has stated that the current status of the mine is not sufficient for it to be regarded as an "existing mine" under Labor's "No New Mines" policy.

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

"The ALP clearly now have a far superior position on Jabiluka than the Coalition. The 12 million Australians opposed to another uranium mine in Kakadu should take this into account on polling day. We applaud the ALP for declaring that the Federal Election will be a referendum on the future of the Jabiluka mine."

"It is also important to note that the Greens and Democrats have long declared their unequivocal opposition to the mine proceeding and both minor parties should be supported for their consistent stance."

"While we welcome the promise from Labor to stop Jabiluka we are also acutely aware that political promises are all too often broken. Pressure must be maintained on the ALP to ensure they keep this election promise if and when they form Government."

"We will watch with interest the strength of statements from the ALP on Jabiluka in coming weeks. We still retain some concern that the ALP will review their position if legal action is taken by ERA. We believe that Beazley's Labor should commit to supporting the Mirrar whatever actions are taken by ERA and will be presenting legal, political and moral arguments to the ALP leadership in order to gain this commitment."

For more information contact Jacqui Katona on (08) 89792200 or (0417) 814470.

(The official letter from the ALP is available upon request.)