

## **Key US Senators Back Kakadu Listing**

**24 June 1999**

The Traditional Owners of the Jabiluka Mineral Lease have received support from 34 members of the United States Congress in their efforts to have Kakadu National Park declared "In Danger" by the UN World Heritage Committee.

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

"The United States is a key player in the World Heritage Committee and influential members of Congress are ensuring that the United States upholds the principles and standards of the World Heritage Convention in deciding the international status of Kakadu."

"The Australian Government is desperately attempting to convince the United States and other World Heritage Committee members to consider Australia's financial contributions to UNESCO; the global uranium market; trade-offs in elections for UN posts - anything but the heritage issues at stake."

"The Mirrar, and the Australian public, look to the World Heritage Committee to independently decide whether the Jabiluka mine endangers Kakadu, nothing more and nothing less. It is already widely accepted by the international community, including many US heritage experts, that Jabiluka will negatively impact on Kakadu's cultural values - a decision for "In Danger" listing on July 12 will simply make this official."

"We are now quietly confident that the United States will vote on the basis of expert opinion and ignore the Australian Government's attempts at diplomatic blackmail."