

## **MINISTERS IN COURT OVER JABILUKA**

**8 September, 1998**

Senior Traditional Owner of the Jabiluka Mine site, Yvonne Margarula, today issued proceedings against Environment Minister Robert Hill, Resources Minister Warwick Parer and uranium giant Energy Resources of Australia.

Ms Margarula is acting on legal advice that Commonwealth approval for the Jabiluka Mill, granted just two working days before the election announcement, is contrary to law.

In particular Ms Margarula is seeking to set aside Ministerial approval of a last minute milling proposal submitted by ERA after their original plan was rejected by the Commonwealth.

The late "approved" proposal was not included in the original Public Environment Report (PER) and was only submitted after Minister Hill extended the PER process. To date, the last-minute "approved" proposal has not been released to the public or the Traditional Owners.

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

"In their continuing attempt to rush through approval for a fatally flawed project, we believe Ministers Hill and Parer have denied the Mirrar natural justice and acted outside the law.

"For purely political purposes the Ministers have given conditional approval to a project which has not even been released to the public.

"In our view secret last-minute election deals between mining companies and politicians are contrary to proper and accountable government decision making."

Ms Margarula's application for judicial review and interlocutory injunctions will be filed today in the Federal Court in Melbourne for a hearing later this month.

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