

## **Senate Report Undermines Jabiluka**

**30 June 1999**

The Report of the Senate Inquiry into the Jabiluka Project signals the "beginning of the end" for the doomed uranium mine.

The detailed, exhaustive and independent examination of Jabiluka by the Senate Environment and Heritage Committee has confirmed that further development of the proposed uranium mine faces insurmountable obstacles.

The Report, backed by a clear majority of the Australian Senate, has found that:

i) ERA has no approval for an economically or environmentally viable method of milling ore from Jabiluka and is unlikely to proceed with the project while the Mirrar withhold consent for ERA's preferred milling option. The Mirrar have affirmed that such consent shall never be given.

ii) The proposed Jabiluka uranium mine poses a grave threat to the natural and cultural heritage values of Kakadu National Park. Accordingly Kakadu should be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

iii) The 1982 Jabiluka Agreement was negotiated under questionable circumstances.

iv) Compelling evidence exists to support the position of Traditional Owners and Custodians that the Boyweg-Almudj Sacred Site Complex is of great significance to local Aboriginal people and will be severely impacted upon by the Jabiluka Project.

Executive Officer for the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation said today:

"This is one more nail in ERA's coffin. Their mine proposal is in tatters. Their complete disregard for Aboriginal cultural concerns has been exposed. Yet another independent assessment has found massive environmental and cultural flaws in the approval process."

"There can be no credible claim from the Australian Government that this Report is anything other than an exceptionally well-researched document based on sound and verifiable evidence. In contrast, the minority report prepared by Government Senators is shallow in the extreme and once more demonstrates the inability of this Government to address the substantive environmental and cultural dangers of Jabiluka."

Jacqui Katona, Yvonne Margarula and other Traditional Owners will travel to Paris next week to present their case to the World Heritage Committee for inclusion of Kakadu on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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