

Mirrarr Take Federal Court Loss In Stride

21 AUGUST, 1998

The Full Court of the Federal Court today dismissed an appeal by Mirrar Senior Traditional Owner, Yvonne Margarula, in one of several legal challenges to the validity of the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine.

Ms Margarula, who has another decision pending in Northern Territory Supreme Court and a team of lawyers preparing further domestic and international cases, was disappointed but not surprised by the Full Court's decision.

Lawyer for Ms Margarula, Mr Bruce Donald, said today:

"The judges have decided that the Jabiluka Mining Lease was not invalidly issued by the Northern Territory Government. We continue to strongly believe that our argument is legally correct. We need to study the judgment in detail to determine whether such a crucial matter should be put before the High Court of Australia for final resolution.

"It remains highly ironic that Governments from both political sides have been permitted to say no to this mine over the years while custodians of this place since ancient times are not accorded the same right to protect their country," Mr Donald concluded.

Ms Margarula and Executive Officer of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, Jacqui Katona will comment on the Federal Court's decision at a press conference in London hosted by Ben Elton at 9.30 AM (Greenwich Mean Time) today.

For more information contact Jacqui Katona on (0417) 814470, Bruce Donald on (02) 92239971 or Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation on (08) 89792200.