

All the reasons to stop Jabiluka



1. The Mirrar people, Aboriginal traditional owners of the area, are unequivocally opposed to the project.
2. Dangerous sacred sites will be disturbed by any exploration or mining in the Jabiluka area.
3. The Mirrar organisation, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, is challenging the validity of the Jabiluka Mineral Lease in the Federal Court.
4. Approval for the 1982 PanContinental/Northern Land Council Agreement to mine at Jabiluka was obtained only by coercing the Mirrar Traditional Owners. The preferred 1997 ERA proposal and ERA's fallback proposal are fundamentally different to the 1982 agreement and are likely to be legally challenged on that basis.
5. In formal advice to Environment Minister, Senator Hill, the Northern Land Council has stated it holds "major concerns that the Environmental Impact Statements is predicated on facts which do not exist."
6. The cultural values for which Kakadu National Park is recognised as a World Heritage area are under threat.
7. The social and economic problems facing the Aboriginal community in the Kakadu region are complex and ongoing. The 1997 Kakadu Regional Social Impact Study found there was no benefit to Aboriginal People of the region from mining. There is no evidence to suggest the structural changes necessary to create such benefits would occur.
8. The Jabiluka proposal would have a significant and long-term impact on the cultural and natural world heritage values of Kakadu National Park. The Ranger/Jabiluka project areas would be a uranium development province within Kakadu for an additional quarter of a century.
9. Mining operations at Jabiluka would result in an additional 20 million tonnes of radioactive tailings stored at the Ranger mine which the Mirrar believe will lead to terrible sickness throughout their Country. These tailings retain almost all their radioactivity for hundreds of thousands of years.
10. Ranger has been plagued with significant water management problems since the mine began and regularly releases contaminated water into Kakadu against the wishes of Aboriginal people. Jabiluka will generate significantly greater volumes of water.
11. The Jabiluka ore-body is a worker health and safety hazard due to its high radioactivity. Proposals by ERA to address this are not international best practice and are insufficient to ensure worker health and safety.