



ASX Announcement

9 January 2014

December 2013 Quarter Operations Review (unaudited)

	Q4 13	vs Q3 13	vs Q4 12	12 mths 13	vs 12 mths 12
Ore milled ('000 tonnes)	486	-23%	-23%	2,310	-10%
Mill head grade (% uranium oxide)	0.12	9%	-48%	0.15%	-12%
Mill recovery (%)	82.5%	-1%	-4%	84.4%	-2%
Production – uranium oxide					
- tonnes	503	-17%	-59%	2,960	-20%
- 000 lbs	1,109			6,526	

Note: With mining of Pit 3 completed in the last quarter of 2012, no material was mined during 2013.

Uranium oxide produced by Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (**ERA**) for the year ended 31 December 2013 was 2,960 tonnes, 20 per cent lower than 2012. Production for the December 2013 Quarter was 503 tonnes, 17 per cent lower than the previous quarter and 59 per cent lower than the corresponding quarter in 2012.

Uranium oxide produced and ore milled in the December 2013 Quarter was adversely impacted by the suspension of processing operations following the failure of Leach Tank No. 1 on 7 December 2013. Clean-up and recovery operations at the Ranger processing plant are progressing. Processing operations remain suspended pending completion of a full investigation and regulatory approval to recommence.

As previously advised, the majority of high grade ore mined prior to completion of mining in Pit 3 was processed during the first half of 2013. As the mill was primarily fed with lower grade stockpiled material, uranium oxide production in the December 2013 Quarter was adversely impacted by lower mill head grade. Upon recommencement of processing operations, the mill will continue to be fed with lower grade stockpiled material until the commencement of production from the proposed Ranger 3 Deeps mine should it receive ERA Board and regulatory approvals.

Ore milled during 2013 was 10 per cent lower than 2012 due to the December suspension of processing operations and lower milling rates resulting from milling areas of stockpiled ore with different characteristics.



Progressive rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area continued during the December 2013 Quarter. The initial backfill of Pit 3 continued to progress ahead of schedule with 4.3 million tonnes of waste material moved into the pit in the December 2013 Quarter. Since December 2012, a total of 22.8 million tonnes of waste material has been moved into Pit 3 out of a planned total of 30 million tonnes of material.

EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION

Total evaluation expenditure for 2013 totalled \$10 million compared to \$3 million in 2012. Evaluation expenditure for the December 2013 Quarter totalled \$5 million compared to \$3 million for the previous quarter and \$1 million for the corresponding quarter in 2012. In 2013, the evaluation expenditure related to the Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine Prefeasibility Study. This study continues to progress on schedule and on budget.

Total exploration expenditure for 2013 was \$56 million, comprised of \$46 million for the Ranger 3 Deeps Exploration Decline and \$10 million on the Ranger surface exploration programme. Total exploration expenditure for the December 2013 Quarter was \$20 million, compared to \$17 million in both the previous quarter and in the corresponding quarter in 2012.

During the December 2013 Quarter, work continued on the Ranger 3 Deeps Exploration Decline with the face position reaching 1,694 metres from the surface on 31 December 2013.

Underground exploration drilling of the Ranger 3 Deeps resource continued with 40 holes completed in the December 2013 Quarter totalling 8,383 metres. In 2013, 54 holes were completed for a total of 13,924 metres, representing 27% of the overall drilling programme (finalisation of these year-end results includes a non-material adjustment related to June and September 2013 Quarters' reported numbers).

ERA released the results from the second and third cross sections of underground close-spaced drilling of the Ranger 3 Deeps resource on 28 November 2013. Drilling of the fourth cross section is underway with the results of this cross section to be provided in due course.

The Ranger 3 Deeps Exploration Decline project remains on schedule and on budget.

Surface exploration drilling of previously identified targets in the north of the Ranger Project Area continued during the December 2013 Quarter. Total surface exploration expenditure for the quarter was \$6 million. At this stage, no significant intercepts have been encountered.

Competent Person

The information in this report relating to exploration results is based on information compiled by Greg Rogers a Competent Person who is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Greg Rogers is a full-time employee of the company and has sufficient experience that is relevant to the style of mineralisation and type of deposit under consideration and to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the 2012 Edition of the 'Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves'. Greg Rogers consents to the inclusion in the report of the matters based on his information in the form and context in which it appears.



ERA

About Energy Resources of Australia Ltd

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) is one of the nation's largest uranium producers and Australia's longest continually operating uranium mine.

ERA has an excellent track record of reliably supplying customers. Uranium has been mined at Ranger for three decades. Ranger mine is one of only three mines in the world to produce in excess of 110,000 tonnes of uranium oxide.

ERA is a major employer in the Northern Territory and the Alligator Rivers Region. ERA is proud of its diverse workforce of more than 500 people, of which 16 per cent are Indigenous people.

ERA's Ranger mine is located eight kilometres east of Jabiru and 260 kilometres east of Darwin, located in Australia's Northern Territory.

For further information, please contact:

Media Relations

Carl Kitchen
Office: +61 8 8924 3550
Mobile: +61 401 691 342
Email: carl.kitchen@era.riotinto.com

Dan Hall
Office: +61 8 8924 3514
Mobile: +61 457 532 270
Email: daniel.hall@era.riotinto.com

Investor Relations

Christopher Maitland
Office: +61 3 9283 3063
Mobile: +61 459 800 131
Email: chris.maitland@riotinto.com

Website: www.energyres.com.au
Twitter: Follow @ERARangerMine on Twitter