



## ASX Announcement

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8 April 2022

### March 2022 Quarter Operations Review (unaudited)

- In the March 2022 quarter, Energy Resources of Australia Limited (ERA) completed sales of 400,000 pounds of uranium oxide into the spot market.
- ERA received stakeholder acceptance for the conversion of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) to a water storage facility allowing commencement of water transfer from Pit 3 to the Ranger Water Dam (RWD) to allow Pit 3 wicking to progress.
- Pit 3 wicking preparatory works commenced, including procurement of long lead time items such as the placement barge.
- ERA's Jabiru housing refurbishment program continues to progress with a further tranche of properties transferred in the March 2022 quarter.
- Material progress was made on the Pit 3 Closure application.
- The ERA Board is currently reviewing all available options with a view to ensure that the increased forecast cost of rehabilitation will be adequately funded.



In the March 2022 quarter ERA completed sales of 400,000 pounds of uranium oxide into the spot market. At the end of the quarter, ERA held approximately 136,000 pounds of remaining inventory, which it will target to sell into the spot market in Q2 2022.

## **REHABILITATION REFORECAST**

ERA announced on 2 February 2022, that the preliminary findings from its reforecast exercise indicate that the revised total cost of completing the rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area, including incurred spend since 1 January 2019, is estimated to be between \$1.6 billion and \$2.2 billion and would potentially have a revised date for completion of rehabilitation activities of between Quarter 4, 2027 and Quarter 4, 2028. This revised estimate, as to both cost and schedule, is based on the Ranger rehabilitation project being completed in accordance with the methodology set out in the current Mine Closure Plan.

A key constraint for ERA is the Atomic Energy Act 1953 which currently requires completion of rehabilitation activities by January 2026. ERA continues to engage with Government and key stakeholders to amend the Atomic Energy Act 1953 and extend the expiry date of ERA's tenure on the Ranger Project Area.

## **RANGER REHABILITATION**

Progressive rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area continued during the quarter, including preparatory activities for Pit 3 wicking installation and ongoing water treatment. This included the commencement of procurement of Pit 3 long lead time items such as the placement barge.

In February 2022, stakeholder acceptance was received for the conversion of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) to a water storage facility. Transfer of water from Pit 3 to the RWD has now commenced to allow wicking to proceed.

Final planting and infill for the initial 30 hectares of Pit 1 revegetation was completed in January 2022. Weed management is ongoing.

ERA's Jabiru housing refurbishment program continues to progress. ERA is progressively working with Jabiru Kabolmakmen Ltd (JKL) for the transfer of properties to enable tenanting by third parties. During the quarter, a further tranche of refurbished properties was transferred. Additional houses were completed and will be transferred following final handover inspections.

## **PIT 3 METHODOLOGY**

ERA is progressing studies on an alternate methodology for the capping of Pit 3 utilising methods that are similar to that adopted for Pit 1. That methodology has a lower technical risk than ERA's current approved Mine Closure Plan. These studies will aim to optimise both the Pit 3 capping process and broader rehabilitation program and are expected to take approximately 12 months. Wicking and capping of Pit 3 are critical path activities to be completed prior to Pit 3 bulk backfill.



The Pit 3 Closure application is being finalised prior to submission to stakeholders for approval. The application is based on the alternate methodology for the capping of Pit 3.

## **FUNDING**

As a result of the increase in rehabilitation provision, ERA has commenced an assessment of potential funding options. An inability to obtain sufficient funding would have a material impact on ERA's business, financial performance and ability to continue as a going concern. Rio Tinto has reiterated its commitment to ensuring the rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area is successfully achieved to a standard that will establish an environment similar to the adjacent Kakadu National Park. ERA is commencing discussions with major shareholders about a funding solution.

ERA remains committed to the successful rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area in accordance with its environmental obligations.

## **EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION**

No evaluation or exploration expenditure was incurred for the March 2022 quarter, in line with the December 2021 quarter.

## **CORPORATE**

On 1 February 2022, the Company announced the appointment of Ms Rosemary Fagen as Non-Executive Director. The appointment of Mr Brad Welsh as Chief Executive and Managing Director effective 18 February 2022 was announced on 21 February 2022.

This announcement is authorised by the ERA Disclosure Committee.



## **About Energy Resources of Australia Ltd**

The operations of ERA are located on Aboriginal land and surrounded by, but separate from, Kakadu National Park. ERA respectfully acknowledges the Mirarr, Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Ranger Project Area is situated.

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) has been one of the nation's largest uranium oxide producers and operated the Ranger mine, Australia's longest continually operating uranium mine.

Uranium was mined at Ranger for almost forty years. During that time, Ranger produced in excess of 132,000 tonnes of uranium oxide. ERA has an excellent track record of safely and reliably supplying customers. ERA is now undertaking the world class rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area.

ERA's Ranger Project Area (100%) is located eight kilometres east of Jabiru and 260 kilometres east of Darwin, in Australia's Northern Territory. ERA also holds title to the Jabiluka Mineral Lease (100%). ERA is a major employer in the Northern Territory and the Alligator Rivers Region.

For further information, please contact:

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