



Australian Government



THE FUTURE OF JABIRU AND KAKADU



FOREWORD

Jabiru is an important town in the Northern Territory, not just as a mining town but as the gateway to dual-World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park and as the service centre for those living in the West Arnhem Region.

The Traditional Owners of Jabiru, the Mirarr People, want to transition the town from a post-mining town to an Aboriginal-led tourism and services hub following the closure of the Ranger Uranium Mine.

Strategic planning is underway to ensure continuation of government and community services for the West Arnhem region, improved tourism visitation to Kakadu National Park and the future of Jabiru as an internationally renowned sustainable tourism and services hub.

The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government, Energy Resources of Australia and the Mirarr Traditional Owners, represented by the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, are working together under a Memorandum of Understanding to secure the future of Jabiru and Kakadu and to provide certainty for residents, businesses and the tourism industry.

MIRARR PEOPLE COMMUNITY STATEMENT

We, the Mirarr, are the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of lands in the northern end of Kakadu National Park in and around the town of Jabiru. In accordance with Aboriginal law and tradition, we also have obligations and responsibilities to other Bininj affected by Mirarr decisions about Mirarr country.

The Mirarr have long advocated for Jabiru to be Aboriginal owned and led via our organisation Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation. In 2000, for example, we signed the Kakadu Charter with the Australian Conservation Foundation, calling for a sustainable regional economy and better protection of country and culture. The Charter envisaged a socially cohesive community and a vibrant, sustainable and culturally appropriate post-mining future for the Kakadu region.

We are proud of the international recognition of our homelands as being of Outstanding Universal Value on the World Heritage list, and this inspires our Vision and Masterplan for the post-mining future of Jabiru to be a:

"A world leading ecologically sustainable, economically and socially vibrant community where traditional Aboriginal culture, all people and the natural environment flourish."

With our partners in the Memorandum of Understanding, we will work closely with all the traditional Aboriginal peoples of Kakadu to achieve this vision and maintain Kakadu National Park as an international cultural icon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government, Energy Resources of Australia and the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Mirarr People. We pay our respects to the ancestors and Elders of this land, past, present and emerging. We respect the Mirarr People's resilient and dynamic cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters of this region.

THE STORY OF JABIRU

Jabiru was established in 1982 to support uranium mining in the region including the Ranger Uranium Mine ('the Mine'). Today, it also serves as a services and tourism hub for the West Arnhem region. The Mine is required to cease processing activities no later than January 2021. The Mine is currently the dominant economic base for Jabiru, therefore transition is required to ensure the future of the town.

Energy Resources of Australia will continue to have a significant presence in the Jabiru Township as it undertakes rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area. The transition of Jabiru, and the separate rehabilitation of the Ranger Project Area is a significant task for both Energy Resources of Australia and the Australian Government and will be undertaken so as to protect the World Heritage values and status of Kakadu National Park.

Land in Jabiru is leased by the Commonwealth Director of National Parks to the Jabiru Town Development Authority, a Northern Territory Government statutory authority. This Head Lease is due to expire in July 2021.

The Mirarr are the Traditional Aboriginal Owners and determined Native Title holders of Jabiru and surrounding lands, including the land covered by the Mine and the Jabiluka mineral lease. The Mirarr are represented in the Memorandum of Understanding by the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation.



THE VISION – A MASTERPLAN FOR JABIRU

Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, on behalf of the Mirarr traditional owners, have developed a Masterplan for Jabiru which sets out the following eight goals and is the vision that underpins the Memorandum of Understanding:

- 1. Mirarr Ownership**
'The town celebrates the traditional ownership of the Mirarr People and is founded on an agreement with the traditional owners for the current and future use of the land for the benefit of the local community, the region and the interests and values of Kakadu National Park.'
- 2. National Park Town**
'The town celebrates its unique location through consistent building design, landscaping and civil works reflecting the World Heritage and national reserve status of Kakadu National Park with a theme and design utilising natural materials, textures and appearance.'
- 3. Tourism Town**
'The town is a key North Australian location for ecofriendly tourism, active outdoor tourism and Indigenous cultural tourism.'
- 4. Sustainable and Resource Efficient Town**
'The town showcases carbon neutral technologies for a wet tropical environment'.
- 5. Iconic Cultural Heritage Destination**
'The town celebrates the unique Indigenous cultural heritage significance of the region and provides a gateway for the Australian community to engage with Indigenous culture.'
- 6. Indigenous Employment and Enterprise Centre**
'The town is a key location nationally for excellence and best practice in Indigenous land management knowledge and employment and supports Bininj living on country in the northern section of Kakadu National Park.'
- 7. Sustainable Residential Population**
'The town attracts and retains long term residents to achieve a sustainable population commensurate with the town's goals and compatible with Kakadu National Park.'
- 8. Education and Research Hub**
'The town is a key location for research in North Australian biodiversity, ecology, education, Indigenous language, cultural heritage, and archaeology and is a gateway for education based tourism.'



WHY INVEST IN JABIRU AND KAKADU NATIONAL PARK?

Jabiru is the gateway to the iconic Kakadu National Park and greater West Arnhem region. Investing in the town will ensure it continues as a centre to deliver government services and thrive as a hub in the Park by providing upgraded and innovative infrastructure and experiences for residents and visitors.

Kakadu National Park is a valuable economic, social, environmental and cultural asset. It makes a significant contribution to both the Northern Territory and broader Australian economies as an iconic tourism destination:

- It attracts around 200,000 domestic and international visitors each year
- It creates hundreds of jobs and supports local businesses through the tourist activity it generates
- It also plays a critical role in shaping the overall brand of Australia's tourism industry and helps support other local tourism activity in the Northern Territory as a major tourism drawcard.

Beyond its economic value, Kakadu National Park is valued for being:

- A social asset and cultural icon that represents an important component of Australia's national identity. This is both in terms of its unspoiled natural beauty and ancient wilderness and its key role in promoting cultural heritage
- An environmental asset of global significance – Kakadu National Park is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its dual environmental and cultural values. It provides significant biodiversity value and eco-system services, acting as a habitat for thousands of plant and animal species across nearly 20,000 square kilometres
- A cultural asset with intrinsic and intangible value for the Traditional Owners who are its custodians and have an uninterrupted connection to Kakadu that spans over 65,000 years.

FUTURE OF JABIRU SNAPSHOT

The Australian and Northern Territory Government's commitment to Jabiru and Kakadu National Park is reflected in the combined \$351.7 million of funding that was pledged earlier this year. This funding will be pivotal in achieving the objectives of the Masterplan to make Jabiru an Aboriginal owned, sustainable national park tourism town that celebrates its cultural heritage and provides employment opportunities for Aboriginal people as well as encourage education and research in the region.

Northern Territory Government (\$135.5m)

New power station

Bininj Resource Centre

Local roads, sewerage, electricity and water network maintenance

Upgrades to airstrip and facilities

Upgrades to existing landfill capacity

Government services hub

Health clinic upgrades

Education precinct

Mobile connectivity in Kakadu

Establishment of Jabiru Kabolkmakmen Ltd

Project management services

Australian Government (\$216.2m)

Tourism Masterplan to set long-term tourism vision

Roads Strategy to prioritise investment in roads and access

Upgrades to visitor infrastructure, such as camp sites, amenities and walking tracks

Upgrades to roads to key visitor sites

Upgrades to access, bridges and crossings to key visitor sites

Mobile connectivity in Kakadu

WiFi connectivity to key visitor sites

World Heritage Visitor Centre

Remediation of Jabiru



ENSURING SERVICES FOR THE TOWN

New power supply for Jabiru

The Northern Territory Government is committed to securing Jabiru's energy future by investing in new power generation.

A power station owned and operated by Energy Resources of Australia currently generates Jabiru's electricity. The new power generation supply will be operational prior to the cessation of the current power supply located on the Ranger Project Area.

The power solution will consider how it can be consistent with the Northern Territory Government's target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, while at the same time ensuring secure and reliable electricity at the least cost to consumers and taxpayers.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY



Northern Territory
Government

Upgrades to key infrastructure

The town was originally constructed for the limited lifespan of the mine, therefore key infrastructure and facilities require upgrades and re-purposing.

The Northern Territory Government is committed to these key projects:

- ➔ Upgrades to education facilities to attract visiting student groups both within the Territory and nationally
- ➔ Centralise the government services and retail with a multi-purpose hub to facilitate service collaboration and user convenience
- ➔ Carry out upgrades to provide a multi-purpose health clinic that meets the region's needs
- ➔ Assess the town's utilities (local roads, sewerage, water, electricity) and carry out long-term upgrades
- ➔ Assess and improve the town's existing landfill capacity
- ➔ Upgrades to the airstrip and facilities.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY



Northern Territory
Government



Bininj Resource Centre

The Bininj Resource Centre has been recognised as key piece of infrastructure for Bininj across Kakadu and West Arnhem Land. It will play a vital role in achieving positive business and economic development opportunities for Bininj in the region.

The Centre's design will be led by Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and funded by the Northern Territory Government.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY



Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and Northern Territory Government

5-year service level guarantee

The Northern Territory Government is committed to ensuring government service delivery is not compromised over the next five years whilst the town transitions from a mining support town to a tourism hub and government services centre.

In July 2018, the Chief Minister announced that health, education, police, fire and emergency services would be guaranteed at current levels until 2023.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY



Northern Territory Government

Establishment of Jabiru Kabolkmakmen Ltd

Jabiru Kabolkmakmen provides services that progress the repurposing of Jabiru with the following three priorities:

- ➔ Support the transition of ownership, leasing and maintenance of housing, business premises and other infrastructure from the current town Headlease to new township leasing arrangements
- ➔ Provide services to the founding members and other major stakeholders, which support and progress the detailed implementation of the Jabiru Masterplan
- ➔ Facilitate social and economic development for Jabiru, West Arnhem Land and Kakadu.

Jabiru Kabolkmakmen is a company limited by guarantee with the Northern Territory Government and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation as its two founding members. Jabiru Kabolkmakmen is located in Jabiru and can support each of the Memorandum of Understanding partners as requested to implement aspects of the Memorandum of Understanding.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY



Northern Territory Government and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation

GROWING TOURISM IN JABIRU & KAKADU NATIONAL PARK

The parties will work together to increase tourism visitation to Kakadu National Park and to position Jabiru as a hub for tourism-related businesses through the following commitments:

Implementation Plan

All parties will work together to develop an Implementation Plan for Jabiru to ensure successful planning and progression of all projects.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY ➔ All parties

World Heritage Visitor Centre

The Australian Government will contribute (along with private sector investment) to support establishment of a new World Heritage Visitor Centre in Jabiru.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY ➔ Australian Government

Roads

The Australian Government has commissioned the development of a Roads Strategy to guide their funding commitments to the upgrade of roads and access within the Park.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY ➔ Australian Government

Tourism infrastructure & experiences

The Australian Government will invest to improve tourism infrastructure and experiences, including improved mobile communications connectivity within Kakadu. Investment will be guided by a Tourism Masterplan which is being jointly developed by the Director of National Parks, Traditional Owners and the Northern Territory Government.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY ➔ Australian Government

Collaborative working arrangement

To strengthen performance of the Kakadu National Park Management Plan 2016-2026, the Australian and the Northern Territory Governments will develop a collaborative working arrangement between Kakadu and the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory.

This collaborative arrangement will, subject to the Kakadu Park Management Plan, include consistency of on-ground operations and a collaboration for ranger rotations and staff mobility across both Northern Territory and federal reserves to extend existing Northern Territory Parks ranger mobility arrangements. The parties will work toward this collaborative approach being developed in 2019 and being implemented by 2021.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY ➔ Australian Government and Northern Territory Government



REMEDIATION

The Australian Government, Northern Territory Government, Energy Resources of Australia and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation will work together to implement the Masterplan through remediation works and investment in new works.

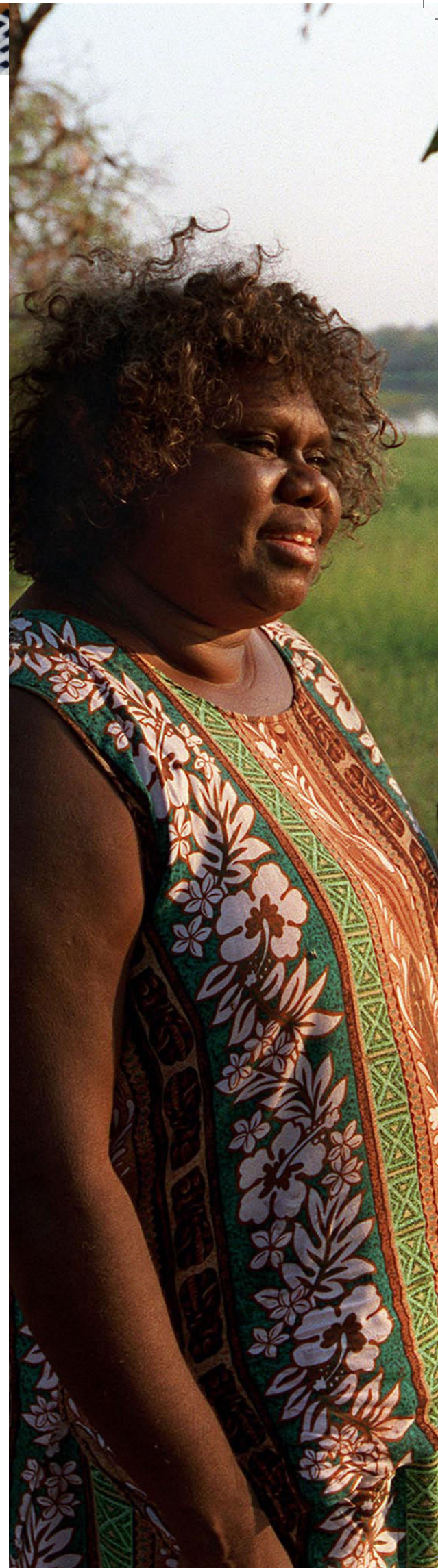
The parties will work together to reach agreement about:

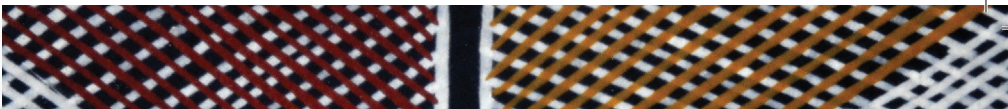
- The specific remediation works required, including removal or repair of buildings and infrastructure, and other agreed civil works such as lake redevelopment and green belt establishment
- Arrangements for the long-term management of contamination (asbestos and potentially hazardous substances) to be left in place following the remediation works
- Support for implementing the agreed remediation arrangements through funding contributions from the Australian and Northern Territory governments with the funding and delivery process to be agreed
- Arrangements for investment in new works required to implement the vision.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY



All parties





ESTABLISHING JABIRU AS ABORIGINAL LAND

In 2009, as a result of discussions between the Australian Government and the Mirarr People, relating to the Mirarr People's native title claim for Jabiru, the Australian Government and the Mirarr People agreed that Jabiru would become Aboriginal land under Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA) on the condition the town would be immediately leased back to the Commonwealth Executive Director of Township Leasing (EDTL).

To provide a framework for this settlement, the Australian Government amended ALRA in 2013.

The parties have committed to working together to resolve the future tenure arrangements of the town before the expiry of the current tenure (2021).

A township lease economic development package will be negotiated with the Mirarr Traditional Owners in the context of new township leasing arrangements.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY ➔ Australian Government and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation

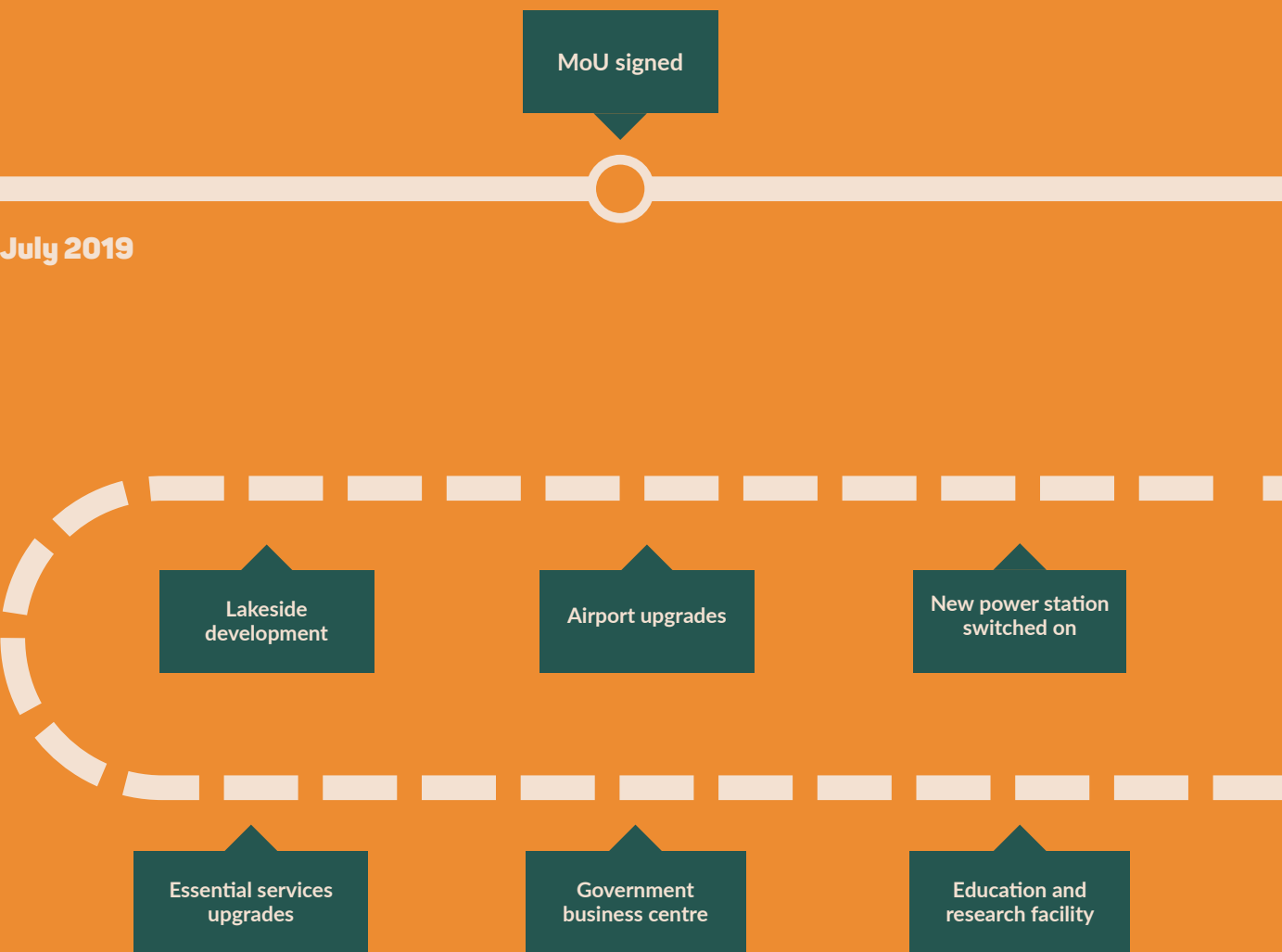
IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation focus

The transition of Jabiru from a mining support town to a tourism and service delivery hub will take place over many years. The immediate focus for all parties under the Memorandum of Understanding is on detailed implementation planning to guide the significant investment being made.

Over the next 12 months, long-term planning for Jabiru will take further shape through completion of the following key documents:

- Township Lease
- Kakadu Tourism Masterplan
- Jabiru Implementation Plan
- Kakadu Roads Strategy



Ensuring the continued operation of key infrastructure and essential services is a priority for the Memorandum of Understanding parties. This includes bringing online a new power station for Jabiru to replace the diesel generator at the Ranger Project Area, and maintaining operations at the Jabiru Airport as Energy Resources of Australia's operations are phased out. Key deadlines that will affect the sequencing of implementation include:

- Energy Resources of Australia expected closure of Ranger Project Area operations in early 2021
- The expiry of the current Jabiru township lease in June 2021.





Australian Government

