

The Environment Centre NT (ECNT) is the peak community sector environment organisation in the Northern Territory of Australia, raising awareness amongst community, government, business and industry about environmental issues, holding government to account on environmental issues, improving environmental governance and regulation, and supporting community members to participate in decision-making processes and action.

ECNT pays respect to the Mirarr people, Traditional Owners of the Ranger site who have had custodianship of the land for tens of thousands of years. ECNT supports the calls of Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation to redress past injustices associated with the mine, including through ensuring an effective rehabilitation program occurs.

ECNT supports the Atomic Energy Amendment (Mine Rehabilitation and Closure) Bill 2022 [Provisions]. ECNT recognises the necessity to extend the closure and rehabilitation period for the Ranger Uranium Mine. It is important to provide certainty that the appropriate regulatory provisions are in place so that rehabilitation and closure of the mine can occur.

The 2020 Report "Closing Ranger, Protecting Kakadu" found that rehabilitation of the site was hindered by an unrealistic mandated time frame requiring rehabilitation being complete by 2026. Extending the closure period through an amendment to the Atomic Energy Act was a recommendation of this report, jointly released by the Sydney Environment Institute, Australian Conservation Foundation, Mineral Policy Institute, and ECNT.

ECNT supports creating a regulatory environment that requires the rehabilitation of the project to a suitable standard for inclusion into the surrounding dual World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park.