

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

31 May 2011

Question: BR6
Topic: Ranger Mine site
Proof Hansard Page: 18

Senator Ludlam asked:

Ms Constable: As I have mentioned, it is independently verified, but there is also oversight by the Department of Resources in the Northern Territory, by the Northern Territory Land Council and by the Supervising Scientist. So a range of people contribute to that final assessment.

Senator LUDLAM: Who is your independent verifier?

Ms Constable: For the current program, it is QS Services.

Senator LUDLAM: And everybody is completely confident that \$169 million is enough to bring that site back into harmony with the values of the park before mining?

Ms Constable: We are confident that that is a figure that reflects the rehabilitation of the Ranger Mine site.

Senator LUDLAM: How much greater is the area of ground disturbance at the Ranger Mine compared to Rum Jungle? I do not expect you to have that right in front of you.

Ms Constable: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: I appreciate that.

Answer:

The Ranger Project Area (including Jabiru airport) comprises an area of approximately 22.7 km². The total area of ground disturbance is 7.6km².

The former Rum Jungle Mine site (before remediation) comprises an area of ground disturbance of approximately 1.94 km².

However, area is not the only, nor necessarily, major determinant in rehabilitation costs. Other factors include site hydrology, hydrogeology and geology, surrounding geomorphology, climate, and geochemistry of waste materials.