

## Transcript

Station: **ABC NEWSRADIO** Date: **07/04/2011**  
Program: **MORNINGS** Time: **11:51 AM**  
Compere: **JOHN BARRON** Summary ID: **M00043236627**  
Item: **ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL OWNERS SAY THAT THEY WANT THE JABILUKA URANIUM DEPOSIT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY TO REMAIN UNDEVELOPED.**  
**INTERVIEWEE: YVONNE MARGARULA, TRADITIONAL OWNER.**

<b>Audience:</b>	Male 16+ N/A	Female 16+ N/A	All people N/A
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**JOHN BARRON:** Aboriginal traditional owners say that they want the big Jabiluka uranium deposit in the Northern Territory to remain undeveloped. They also want it incorporated into the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park.

The Jabiluka mine site was the subject of protests, you recall, by thousands of people around the country in the 1990s. A mine shaft was dug, but eventually it was filled in again.

From Darwin, Michael Coggan reports.

**REPORTER:** In the late 1990s, Australian rock band Midnight Oil joined thousands of Australians in protesting against plans to mine uranium at Jabiluka on a lease inside the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park.



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Mining company, Energy Resources of Australia, erected fences to keep the protesters out of the mine site. But some of the band members, and traditional owner, Yvonne Margarula, walked into Jabiluka and demanded an end to uranium mining there.

YVONNE MARGARULA: We still say, no. Maybe - that's all I can say.

[Cheers and applause]

No to uranium.

[Cheers and applause]

REPORTER:

While ERA won a fight for the right to mine the world's largest known undeveloped uranium deposit at Jabiluka, the Mirarr Aboriginal traditional owners refused to give the company permission to build the mill it needed to process the uranium at Jabiluka and the mine shaft was filled in.

ERA retains the right to mine the site, but now the Mirarr people are declaring a wish to have Jabiluka incorporated into Kakadu National Park.

In an interview with Fairfax newspapers, traditional owner Yvonne Margarula says she is, quote, really happy about it becoming part of the national park. My nephews and nieces can look after the country. It's a sentiment echoed in an interview with the ABC in 2009.

[File tape played]

YVONNE MARGARULA: My country is important for me. Caring my country in our care, the country where I grow up, go hunting, and into the future where the young kids when they grow up.

REPORTER: In an indication of why the Mirarr people want Jabiluka to become part of Kakadu, Ms Margarula this week has written to United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, expressing the Mirarr's great sadness at the suffering of the people in Japan from the earthquake, tsunami and the emergency at the Fukushima nuclear power station.

In the letter, Ms Margarula says, quote, this is an industry that we have never supported in the past and that we want no part of into the future. Given the long history between Japanese nuclear companies and Australian uranium mines, it is likely that the radiation problems at Fukushima are, in part, at least fuelled by uranium-derived from our traditional lands, unquote.

The Mirarr people are foregoing billions of dollars in potential mining royalties. But Yvonne Margarula says money is not as important as looking after their country.

JOHN BARRON: Michael Coggan reporting for us from Darwin.



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ABs = Managers, administrators, professions. GBs = Grocery buyers.

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