

# Land rights win in Kakadu long time coming

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**ONE of the longest-running native title claims in Australian history has been settled by a township being handed to traditional owners.**

Jabiru, 220kms east of Darwin, will now be leased back to the Federal Government rent free for 99 years.

It will remain part of Kakadu National Park.

The Mirrar people have hailed the deal as an "historic act" of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

They said the agreement was a "breakthrough" for indigenous people, business and government.

"The Mirrar receive recognition of traditional ownership, business receives much-needed security of tenure and the Australian and Northern Territory governments establish certainty for the town's future," the Mirrar said in a statement.

The settlement was backed by Energy Resources of Australia, which mines uranium at nearby Ranger.

Jabiru was excluded from the Alligator Rivers Region land grant in 1977 because Canberra feared traditional owners would try to block the building of Jabiru to service the uranium mine.

The native title claim was lodged in 1997.

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