

## Transcript

Station: **RADIO ADELAIDE** Date: **07/04/2011**  
 Program: **THE WIRE** Time: **05:53 PM**  
 Compere: **COMPERE** Summary ID: **W00043241121**

Item: **ABORIGINAL OWNERS WANT THE JABILUKA URANIUM DEPOSIT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY TO REMAIN UNDEVELOPED AND BECOME PART OF KAKADU NATIONAL PARK.**

**INTERVIEWEE: JUSTIN O'BRIEN, GUNDJEIHMI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION.**

Audience:	Male 16+	Female 16+	All people
	N/A	N/A	N/A

**COMPERE:** Aboriginal owners want the Jabiluka uranium deposit in the Northern Territory to remain undeveloped and become part of Kakadu National Park.

They say they're almost certain that the uranium mined at Jabiluka contributed to the current crisis in Japan.

*The Wire's* Gemma Wilson spoke to Justin O'Brien, executive officer of the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, and asked him why the Mirarr people feel so strongly about the issue.

**JUSTIN O'BRIEN:** The people in Kakadu have expressed a sadness. I don't think there's a sense of guilt or responsibility, but a sense of sadness that the warnings that they and, indeed, their fathers issued about this material and the disturbance to sacred sites back in the 1970s, that those warnings weren't heeded.



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So, the correspondence that Yvonne has written - sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, you know, calls on the Secretary-General to heed those warnings that Aboriginal people have been giving for a long time about the dangerous powers associated with sites on their land.

REPORTER:

Now, how hard is the fight going to be to get Jabiluka to become part of Kakadu National Park?

JUSTIN O'BRIEN:

Well, it needn't be difficult. I mean, it's a difficult decision for a mining company to make, but only the mining company can make that decision.

In real terms, it has to come down to them. It's not something that the Mirarr people can even initiate. But the mining company needs to think of its global reputation, its commitment to working with communities. And these days, Rio Tinto, the owner of ERA, is regarded as, you know, the top of the pile when it comes to community relations and Indigenous affairs.

But this mars the record. There is this great, gaping problem with how they handle Indigenous issues and the social, environmental rights of people in places where they mine. And Kakadu is the sore thumb.

That can be resolved. They can do the right thing and give effect to their promise to never mine without consent by agreeing to never mine.



So we hope now that with this renewed vigour over Jabiluka's non-development, that we can have a discussion with Rio Tinto, that we can bring them to the table to talk seriously with the Mirarr people about Jabiluka not proceeding.

COMPERE:

Jo... Justin O'Brien, executive officer of the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation ending that report by *The Wire's* Gemma Wilson.

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

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