

Positive Traditional Owner engagement – A case study from West Arnhem Land

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A large number of exploration licences (EL) have been granted in West Arnhem Land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* (ALRA NT) in this region. West Arnhem Land is aboriginal freehold land which is collectively owned. It has been under intensive exploration for uranium and base metals from the late 1960s (before ALRA NT 1976) to the present time. Exploration and mining agreements are negotiated by Northern Land Council (NLC) on behalf of traditional owners. In November 2010,

Alligator Energy Ltd acquired EL 24921, 24922 and 25002 from Cameco Australia Pty Ltd. Cameco holds a 51 per cent buy back right on the discovery of a significant uranium deposit.

This presentation aims to highlight the success and challenges Alligator Energy has faced over the past five years with traditional owner employment, weed management and partnerships formed with local indigenous ranger groups. The case study will highlight how some simple assistance measures can have significant overall benefits to all parties involved. This presentation also will talk of some of the barriers to indigenous employment and ways these can be overcome.

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