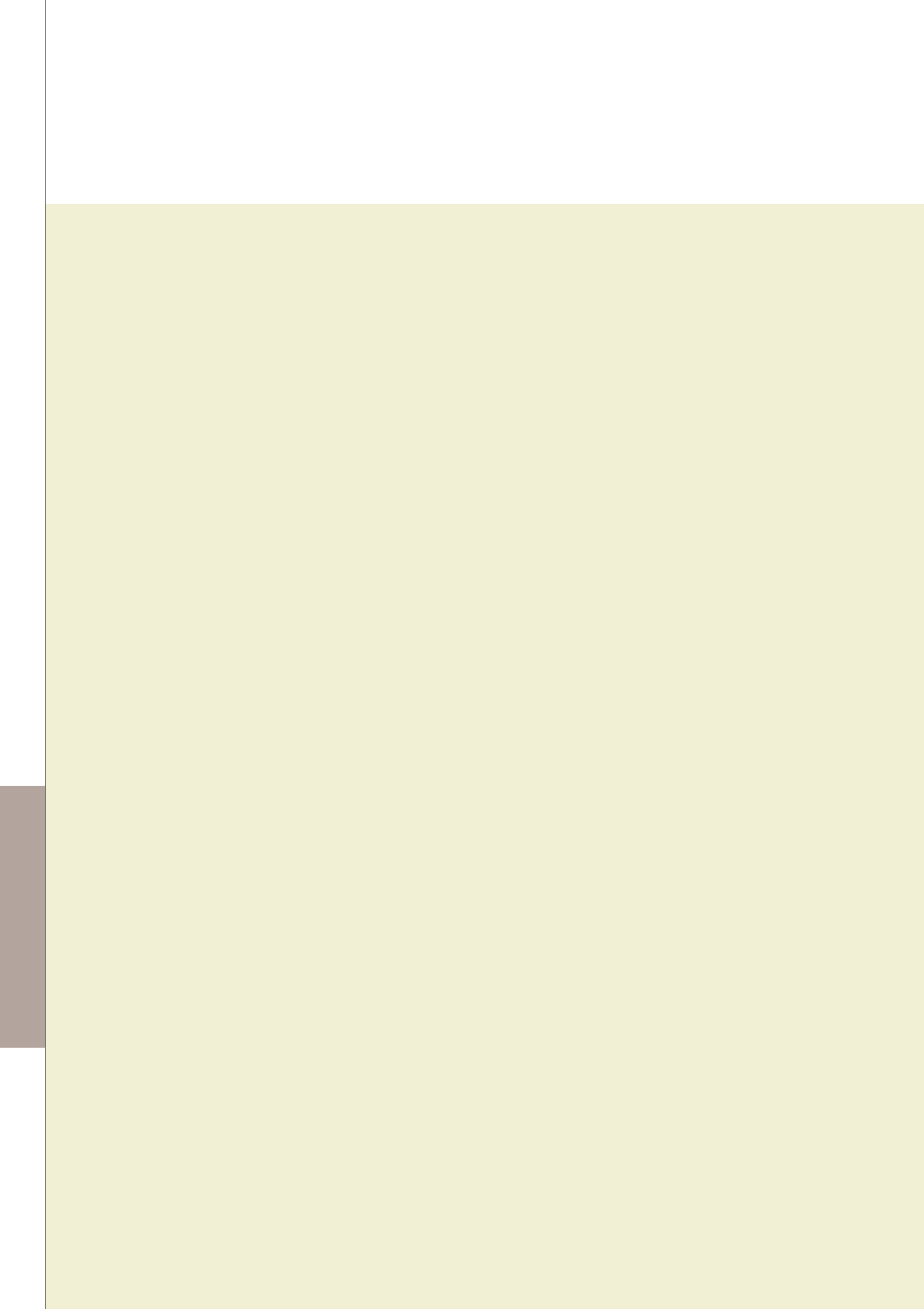


CHAPTER 8

Managing Values into the Future, Reclamation and Restoration



Managing Values into the Future—Reclamation and Restoration

CHAPTER EIGHT: MANAGING VALUES INTO THE FUTURE—RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION

Mining activity is a temporary land use, and a great deal of effort has already been dedicated towards ensuring that the Jabiluka minesite will be returned to a state which very closely, and to the greatest extent possible, reflects the topography, landscape and natural values of its surroundings. This process will be governed by the strict set of environmental requirements placed on the developer by the Government and in accordance with the Best Practice Environmental Management in Mining guidelines developed by the Supervising Scientist and the Australian mining industry.

At the conclusion of the mine's operating life, all tailings will be placed underground into the voids from which the uranium ore was extracted (or into contiguous purpose built voids) some 100 metres or more below the surface. Once full and sufficiently de-watered, the pit will be capped using a geotextile and waste rock. The topography of the repository will be sculptured to minimise erosion and to resemble the surrounding landforms. Having established a stable and representative landscape on the former minesite, revegetation activities will be managed to reflect, to the greatest extent practicable, the mix and abundance of species in the surrounding areas of Kakadu National Park.

The rehabilitation objectives for the Ranger Uranium Mine have been agreed to by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, the Northern Land Council and ERA. ERA has an obligation under the agreement with the Aboriginal landowners to rehabilitate the Ranger Mine such that it can be incorporated within Kakadu National Park at the cessation of the mine. Similar requirements will also apply to Jabiluka. The specific rehabilitation objectives will be agreed following discussions with the NLC and the traditional owners. This will also include agreement on the form of rehabilitation and whether facilities such as the access road are maintained.

Red lilly
(*Nelumbo*
nucifera)
(Michael Preece)



Frilled-neck lizard
(*Chlamydosaurus*
kingii)
(Michael Preece)



Managing Values into the Future—Reclamation and Restoration

The most stringent requirements have been placed upon the company to ensure that there will be no risk of radioactive or chemical contamination of surface or ground waters, or any risk of radiation exposures to humans or the environment. Indeed, the company will be required to put in place rehabilitation measures which will avoid detrimental impacts to the environment, and conform to stringent limits on radiation doses to members of the public, for at least 10,000 years.

This carefully planned and executed process will employ the best available techniques and experience available at the time. In so doing, the minesite will be restored to a state where locally indigenous biodiversity can thrive and where use by traditional owners and visitors from all over Australia and the rest of the world can continue. The outstanding universal natural and cultural values of Kakadu National Park will continue to be protected.

Wetlands of Kakadu (Science Group, Environment Australia)



Twin Falls Gorge, Kakadu National Park (Michael Preece)

