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NEWS

# Jobs boom as Cape York sand mine project advances

**An emerging miner has announced a “significant” step forward in the approval process for a resources project that is set to deliver jobs and investment for the Far North.**

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Peter Carruthers, The Cairns Post

 Subscriber only | August 24, 2020 2:09pm

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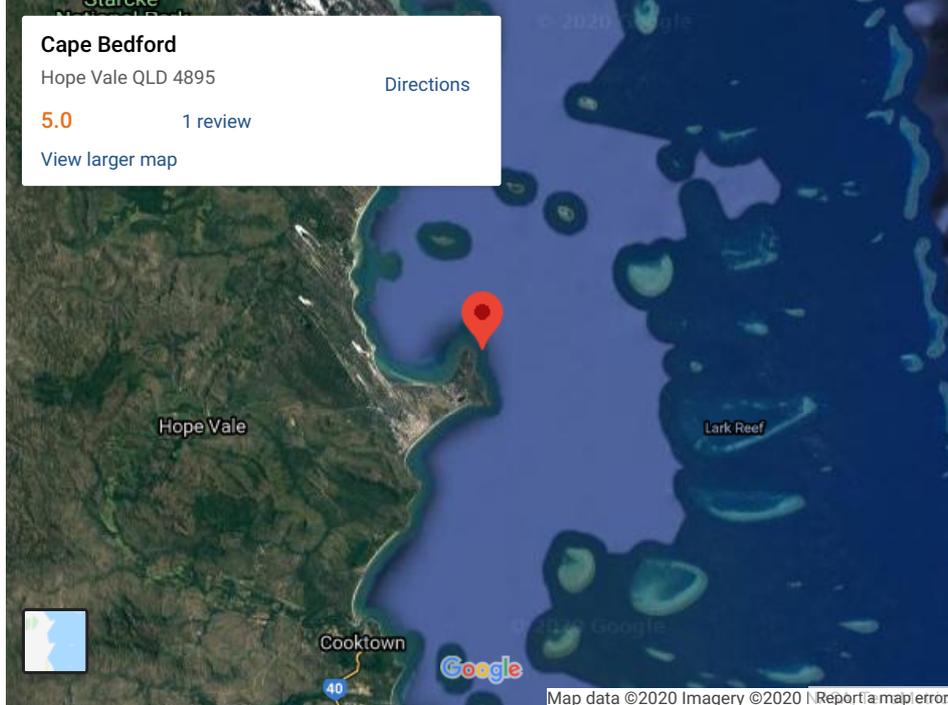
CASHING in on booming Asian demand for high-purity silica sand, emerging miner Diatrema Resources has announced another step forward in the approval process for a project set to deliver significant investment and jobs for the Far North.

The proposed project is a new open-cut silica sand mine with onsite washing, gravity separation and stockpiling of the product at [Cape Bedford, 20kms north of Cooktown](#).

Up to 950,000 tonnes per annum of silica sand would be mined during a proposed mine life of 15 years.

The Brisbane-headquartered company released the Initial Advice Statement and draft terms of reference for the project’s environmental impact statement last month.

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And in March this year the Department of Environment and Science approved a voluntary EIS application made by Diatreme.

Diatreme’s chief executive officer Neil McIntyre said the new silica sand mine would operate in partnership with the traditional owners of the Hopevale Congress.

“This is a significant boost for our plans to develop a new silica sand mine at Galalar,” he said.

“The size of the project continues to expand and its ability to produce a premium silica product for fast-growing markets will make it extremely attractive for project partners and investors.”

The project is expected to [generate 30-40 jobs in the construction phase](#) and 60 in production, with a focus on local employment including for the traditional owners.



 An indigenous worker at the Cape Flattery Silica Mine in Cape York.

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An independent economic study undertaken by the miner revealed a total expenditure of \$23-24m during the construction phase and total employment including flow-on effects would equal 110 equivalent full time positions.

A mining lease covering an area of 542 sq/km would be operated alongside the Mitsubishi Corporation subsidiary, Cape Flattery Silica Mines and would supply premium-quality silica for the fast-growing Asian solar panel market.