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SAND MINE HEADS MEET LOCALS

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EMERGING miner Diatreme Resources has kicked off stakeholder engagement meetings ahead of the proposed extraction of 21.6m tonnes of silica from a remote Cape York deposit.

An office in Hope Vale has opened with the aim of engaging the local community and a delegation to Canberra met Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt and Environment Minister Sussan Ley. The Galalar Silica Project would mine 950,000 tonnes of silica sand a year during a proposed mine life of 15 years.

Diatreme chief executive Neil McIntyre said the meetings were key to earning a “social licence to operate”.



Diatreme CEO Neil McIntyre

“It is impossible to stress enough the significance of such stakeholder engagement,” he said.

Two weeks ago the company held community meetings at Hope Vale aimed at informing affected native title

holders including regional clan groups and town residents about the project.

Hopevale Aboriginal Congress chairman Willie Gordon said feedback must be “carefully listened” to in order to ensure development is sensitively undertaken.

“There are many positive benefits for the affected native title holders and broader Hope Vale community from this mining project, including jobs, revenue and economic opportunities,” he said.

Leichhardt MP Warren Entsch supported the mine.

“(The mine) will be transformational for Hope Vale and Cooktown, an area of high unemployment,” he said.