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Galalar sand mine increases

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SILICA sands developer and exporter Diatreme Resources Limited has announced another increase in the total JORC Mineral Resource estimate for its Galalar Silica Project near Cape Bedford in Cape York.

Resource estimate has risen to 61.9 million tonnes, up 30 per cent on the previous estimate announced last year.

The total resource covers about 335ha with an average thickness of 18.8m, of which 99 per cent falls within the Mining Lease Application area.

“This is another welcome boost for our Galalar project, demonstrating its potential to



become a long-term silica sand operation that generates valuable new jobs and investment for the benefit of the local community, including

the directly affected native title holders,” Diatreme chief executive Neil McIntyre (above) said.

“Galalar will be transformational for Hope Vale and Cooktown, and together with potential downstream processing opportunities in Townsville has the potential to give the whole region a boost in its post-pandemic recovery.”

The latest resource expansion follows the release of an economic study showing the project’s potential to generate more than 110 full-time jobs, delivering a significant boost to regional household incomes.

It could inject about \$23m-\$24m in the construction phase and up to \$42m in the operational phase for the benefit of Hope Vale, Cooktown and the surrounding region, with estimated total revenue of \$80m per year.

Located about 200km north of Cairns and 20km north of the port of Cooktown, the Galalar Silica Project lies within the same sand dune system and in proximity to the world’s largest operating silica sand mine at Cape Flattery.