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Silica deposits expanded

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Diatreme announces increase to expected yield

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AN emerging silica miner has expanded an estimated resource of high grade sand near Cape Flattery by 22 per cent as the Galalar Silica Project advances assessment of high priority target areas.

Last month Brisbane-based firm Diatreme Resources announced a further increase to the expected yield from a high purity silica resource north of Cooktown from 61.9 Mt to 75.5 Mt.

Auger drilling by hand continues in high-priority exploration areas to confirm the purity of silica deposits – initial results are expected to identify a new sand resource 25km to the south.

Diatreme Resources chief executive officer Neil McIntyre said sand expected to be extracted from the site was well suited to Asia's fast-growing solar panel and specialty glass market.

"This is becoming even more significant amid growing global supply concerns, demands for an increasingly decarbonised global economy and the need for environmentally sustainable minerals supply as part of that solution," he said.

"These northern exploration targets have the potential to demonstrate the true extent of this world-class high-purity silica dune system, playing a key role in Diatreme's future resource development and logistics planning."

In June Diatreme Resour-

ces announced plans to use the existing Nob Point barge ramp and haulage road following a mining lease application with the state regulator and the signing of a corporation agreement with the Hope Vale Congress Aboriginal Corporation and native title holders.

"We welcome this agreement with the traditional owners and their support for our

preferred transport and marine infrastructure solution at Nob Point," Mr McIntyre said.

"Diatreme has long maintained our preference for the use of Nob Point given its beneficial economic, environmental and community outcomes compared to the alternative option of Cooktown."

The company is advancing regulatory approval process and a Preliminary Feasibility Study is due in the coming

weeks. A draft environmental impact study is being finalised and pending a state government green light Diatreme Resources expects to begin production in late 2022.



Test drilling at the proposed Galalar Silica mine.