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Swan adds to boardroom CV

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Former deputy prime minister Wayne Swan has been appointed chairman of listed mining explorer Diatreme Resources.

The Labor Party president, who served as treasurer in the Rudd government, will take on the new job alongside his other corporate roles as chairman of the CFMEU's superannuation fund, CBUS, and director of Queensland-owned energy company Stanwell.

Brisbane-based Diatreme plans to mine high-grade silica sand on a tenement north of the Aboriginal community of Hope Vale, on Cape York.

The silica extracted is hoped to be refined and used in electronics manufacturing and in glass manufacturing operations to supply the solar panel market.

An environmental-impact statement is being developed and

discussions have begun with traditional owners, with the promise that the Indigenous community will have a financial share in the project.

Mr Swan said he was attracted to the company because of its potential in the renewable energy market and potential benefits to the Indigenous community.

"The ... project has enormous potential to generate new jobs and investment for the benefit of the Hope Vale/Cooktown region, including the traditional owners, while its silica product will help support the Asia-Pacific region's push for renewables through its use as a direct component of PV panels," he said. "Diatreme has shown enormous foresight in its approach towards the traditional owners, giving them a direct stake in the project at an early stage.

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