

# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

17 June 2025

## Northern Silica Project awarded Major Project Status

- **Diatreme's Northern Silica Project awarded Major Project Status by the Australian Government, the first project in Queensland to receive this designation**
- **Major Projects Facilitation Agency will provide coordination and facilitation support for Federal Government approvals and support negotiations with relevant State Government agencies**
- **Environmental Impact Statement and approval applications currently underway pursuant to State and Federal regulatory processes, for key critical minerals project in Far North Qld.**

**Emerging silica sands developer and producer, Diatreme Resources Limited (ASX: DRX)** has secured Major Project Status for its Northern Silica Project (**NSP**) through the Federal Government's Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA), a significant boost for the key critical minerals project. Following an extensive engagement process, the formal decision and project designation was received from the Honorable Tim Ayres, Minister for Industry and Innovation, with the NSP the first such project in Queensland to receive the designation.

Major Project Status is a significant milestone, recognising the NSP's alignment with the development of Australia's critical minerals sector in line with the Australian Critical Minerals Strategy. This acknowledges the opportunity for material regional economic growth for Far North Queensland, together with the complexity of the regulatory approvals required for the NSP at a national level.

Provision of Major Project Status allows Diatreme to access additional support from MPFA in coordinating and facilitating Federal Government approvals for the project. Principally, this consists of approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in relation to potential impacts to matters of national environmental significance (MNES). Diatreme is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for submission under the EPBC Act, seeking approval of the NSP as a controlled action.

Welcoming the decision, Diatreme's CEO, Neil McIntyre commented: *"The award of Major Project Status is an important recognition of the NSP's strategic importance as both a world-class high purity silica resource, and its*

*potential to directly contribute to the energy transition, specifically the globally important solar photovoltaic supply chain powering the clean energy revolution.*

*“The Major Project Status designation will assist us as we progress the NSP through the final permitting and development phases as we enter offtake negotiations and embark on assembling project financing together with our joint venture partner, global materials solutions provider Sibelco Asia Pacific.*

*“Creating a viable economic project that has clear community support and regional benefits whilst delivering strong returns for our shareholders has always been our goal and we are delighted by this Federal Government support at this key stage in the NSP’s development.”*

There are currently 18 declared Major Projects in Australia, consisting of a range of energy, infrastructure and mining projects, with NSP the **first such Major Project declared for Queensland**. This reflects the significance of the low iron, high purity silica sand project in the context of critical minerals, both for Queensland and Australia.

In January 2025, Diatreme announced the NSP’s EIS studies had progressed to the final stages of impact assessment and mitigation following receipt of the Final Terms of Reference (FToR) for the project. The Draft EIS is now being prepared by Diatreme in accordance with the FToR.

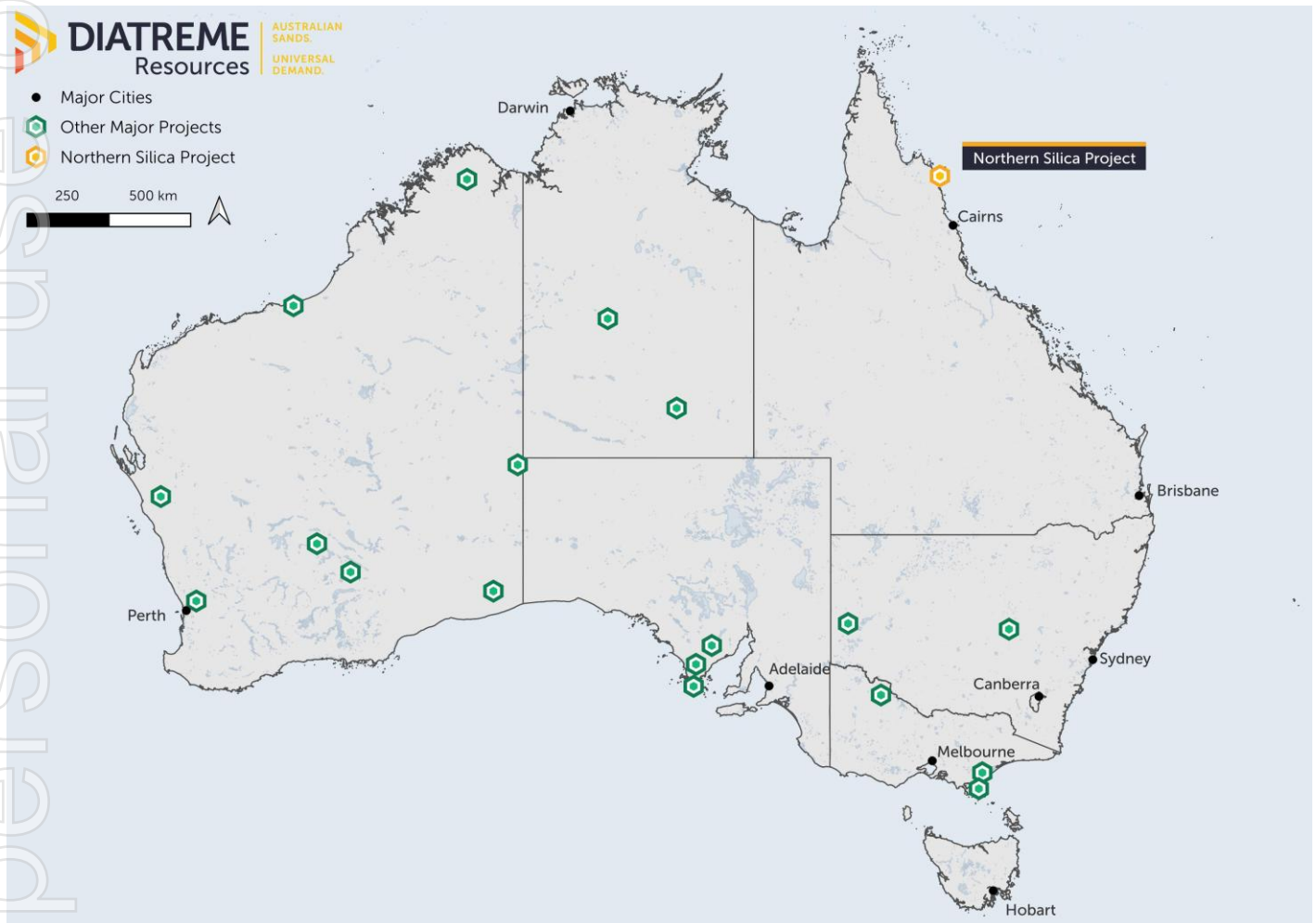
Located approximately 35 km north of Hope Vale township and 14 km west of the Port of Cape Flattery, the NSP is projected to mine silica sand at an initial rate of 3.75Mtpa during Phase 1 operations for the first two years, with scope to expand operations during Phase 2 to 6.25Mtpa over the remaining 23 years life of mine. These equate to production rates of 3-5Mtpa for Phase 1 and Phase 2 respectively. The current established resource is 235Mt, of which 151Mt will be mined providing for an initial mine life of 25 years.

Key infrastructure components of the NSP will consist of the onsite processing plant, conveyors to transport sand to the port, onsite and offsite stockpiles, and any maritime infrastructure required to support construction and operational/export activities at the Port of Cape Flattery (the port).

Designated by the Queensland Government as a Coordinated Project in January 2024 and a ‘Project of Regional Significance’ in August 2023, this further acknowledgement federally should greatly assist in ensuring the NSP’s access to regional port and marine infrastructure (Cape Flattery) is optimised and designed to ensure environmental and operational outcomes are sensibly implemented in line with the broader regional community’s expectations.

During operations, the NSP is expected to provide more than 120 direct local employment opportunities and additional business development opportunities to the Hope Vale community and surrounding region. Development of the NSP will also contribute directly and indirectly to the local regional economy during construction and ongoing operations.

The community and other interested stakeholders will have further opportunity to provide formal input into the NSP during the EIS public notification period. In the meantime, interested stakeholders and parties can find out more about the project at <https://diatreme.com.au/nsp>.



### Northern Silica Project location among other Major Projects

This announcement is authorised for release by the Board.

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### **About Diatreme Resources Limited**

Diatreme Resources (ASX: DRX) is an emerging Australian producer of mineral and silica sands based in Brisbane. Our key projects comprise the Northern Silica Project and Galalar Silica Sand Project in Far North Queensland, located next to the world's biggest silica sand mine at Cape Flattery, together with the recently acquired Cape Flattery Silica Project.

Both the Northern Silica and Cape Flattery projects have been designated "Coordinated Projects" by the Queensland Government and are strategically located adjacent to the export-focused Cape Flattery Port.

Global material solutions group Sibelco is Diatreme's development partner on its Queensland silica projects portfolio.

Sibelco has completed an investment of circa \$49 million into both the silica sands projects and Diatreme at the corporate level.

In Western Australia's Eucla Basin, Diatreme's Cyclone Zircon Project is considered one of a handful of major zircon-rich discoveries of the past decade. Diatreme also owns 100% of the Clermont Copper-Gold Project in central Queensland.

Diatreme's silica sand resources will support global decarbonisation by providing the necessary high-grade, premium-quality silica for use in the solar PV industry. The Company has a strong focus on its ESG obligations, working closely with its local communities and all other key stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability of our operations, including health, safety and environmental stewardship.

Diatreme has an experienced Board and management, with expertise across all stages of project exploration, mine development and project financing together with strong community and government engagement skills.

For more information, please visit [www.diatreme.com.au](http://www.diatreme.com.au)

### **ASX releases referenced for this release:**

- Quarterly Activities Report – 23 April 2025
- NSP environmental studies progress to final stages – 22 January 2025

- NSP declared Coordinated Project – 15 January 2024
- NSP granted 'Project of Regional Significance' status – 3 August 2023
- Positive Scoping Study for Northern Silica Project – 14 June 2023

Diatreme confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the original releases and that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the original releases continue to apply and have not materially changed. Diatreme confirms that the form and context in which the competent person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original releases.

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