

# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

15 December 2025

## Northern Silica Project Draft EIS Submitted to Office of Coordinator-General

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Diatreme's Northern Silica Project submitted to Queensland's Office of the Coordinator-General to assess adequacy in addressing Final EIS Terms of Reference
- Key milestone in NSP's development, highlighting its ability to deliver regional economic benefits and support the global solar energy boom while protecting cultural heritage and the environment
- Following regulatory review and subject to Coordinator-General's decision, DEIS to be released for public consultation and review in the first half of 2026 as Diatreme advances this significant critical minerals project for Queensland and Australia.

Emerging silica sands developer, **Diatreme Resources Limited (ASX:DRX)** has achieved a major milestone in the approval process for its flagship Northern Silica Project (NSP), with the submission of the Far North Queensland project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to Queensland's Office of the Coordinator-General.

Preparation of the DEIS is the culmination of extensive environmental, social and economic investigations, studies and assessments conducted on the NSP since the release of the Final EIS Terms of Reference (ToR) in September 2024. The DEIS provides transparent, technically sound and relevant information about the NSP's scope, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation measures to assist State and Commonwealth advisory agencies, key stakeholders and the general public in informed decision-making regarding its approval, development and implementation.

Welcoming the DEIS' submission, Diatreme's CEO, Neil McIntyre commented: "*I am very appreciative of the willingness and participation of Traditional Owners, local communities and stakeholders that enabled the required information to be collected to assess the NSP, not only from an impact point of view, but also the important economic and employment opportunities that it will deliver.*

*"I would also like to thank the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the Diatreme team and the vast array of highly experienced and competent technical practitioners that have studied the project and its proposed operations in great depth, particularly over the last 15 months to prepare the DEIS. Their work demonstrates that significant benefits can be realised from the NSP, including new employment and investment for the Hope Vale/Cooktown region, while potential impacts can be managed, ensuring that important cultural heritage is preserved and the environment protected while advancing a project that will support the global clean energy transition.*

*"We look forward to working closely with the OCG as we proceed to the next step in the Coordinated Project Process, commencing public consultation and review of the DEIS, which is expected in the first half of 2026 as we move towards a Final EIS, public comment and ultimately the award of a Mining Lease. "*

The DEIS aims to:

- Provide a basis of understanding of the NSP, key components, phases and proposed staging of development.
- Demonstrate how all matters specified in the NSP ToR (Queensland Government 2024b) and the EIS Guidelines (Queensland Government 2024a) have been addressed.
- Provide a discussion around the need for the NSP and all prudent and feasible alternatives considered through its development.
- Present site-specific and other relevant baseline information on identified values including seasonal and long-term variations, that may be affected by the NSP.
- Identify any potential project impacts, including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts and those impacts that may be irreversible and / or may result in environmental harm.
- Provide an assessment of the NSP's affected values via an impact assessment process (EIS methodology) that demonstrates a consideration of its scale, extent, intensity, duration, cumulative and interrelated effects.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of proposed management strategies to avoid or at least mitigate impacts and the ability to offset any residual impacts from the NSP.

The DEIS is structured in five parts:

- Part A – Introduction, Project Description, Rationale and Alternatives, Legislation and Approvals and Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Part B – Technical Assessments
- Part C – Management Plans (including a Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan and Social Impact Management Plan)
- Part D – Appendices (including technical reports and other background material used in compiling the technical chapters in Part B and the Management Plans in Part C)
- Part E – Administrative Supporting Material.

The documents include a dedicated chapter addressing Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the EPBC Act.

Once the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG), state agencies and the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) have reviewed the documents and they are deemed to have adequately addressed the ToR, the DEIS will be released for public review and consultation.

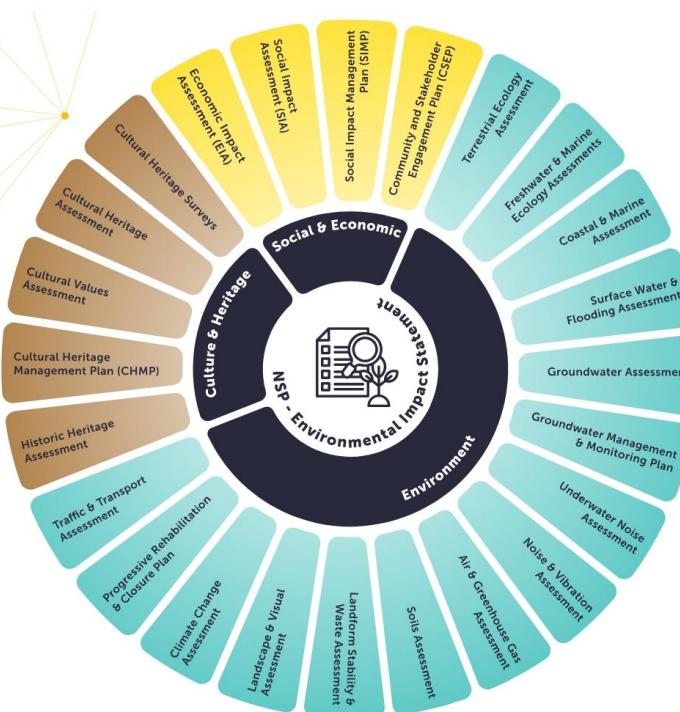


Figure 1: Northern Silica Project – Environmental Impact Statement Scopes of Work

### EIS process - next steps

The Draft EIS will now be assessed by the OCG to determine whether it has adequately addressed the ToR. Once the Coordinator-General is satisfied regarding its adequacy, the DEIS will undergo a public comment period, to provide the public and regulatory agencies an opportunity to formally have their say about the project.

Following the notification and submission period on the Draft EIS and the carrying out of any additional studies (if required), the EIS will be revised and a Final EIS submitted for formal Government assessment and decision on the NSP's advancement.

The NSP was gazetted by the Queensland Government as a ‘Coordinated Project’ in January 2024 (refer ASX release 15 January 2024) in recognition of its strategic value, including infrastructure and approval requirements. This also established the environmental assessment process, including preparation of an EIS.

In June 2025, the NSP was awarded Major Project Status by the Federal Government, recognising the NSP’s alignment with the development of Australia’s critical minerals sector in line with the government’s “Critical Minerals Strategy.” This acknowledged 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.

Notably, the NSP is currently the only Queensland project with this status, reflecting the significance of the low iron, high purity silica sand project for Queensland and Australia.

Diatreme is now focused on completing the EIS process, securing a Mining Lease and all other necessary approvals to commence construction of this valuable new project for Far North Queensland.

This announcement is authorised for release by the Board.

#### **Neil McIntyre**

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#### **About Diatreme Resources**

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 adjacent to the world's biggest silica sand mine at Cape Flattery, together with the 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.

The NSP has been designated a Major Project by the Federal Government, currently the only 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 Western Australia's Eucla Basin, Diatreme's 'shovel-ready' Cyclone Zircon Project is considered one of a handful of major zircon-rich discoveries of the past decade.

Global material solutions group Sibelco is Diatreme's development partner on its silica projects portfolio. Sibelco has completed an investment of circa \$49 million into both the silica sands projects and Diatreme at the corporate level.

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 ESG, working closely with its local communities and 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:**

- Diatreme's silica portfolio granted Project Status recognition; key tenure renewals completed – 25 August 2025
- Northern Silica Project awarded Major Project Status – 17 June 2025
- Final Terms of Reference for EIS released – 23 September 2024
- Draft Terms of Reference for EIS released – 31 May 2024
- Diatreme's Northern Silica Project declared Coordinated Project – 15 January 2024

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.