

## Rachel Hunter

---

**From:** Rachel Hunter  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 December 2022 2:41 PM  
**To:** Jim Murphy (Ministerial)  
**Subject:** FW: Cape Flattery and Surrounds  
**Attachments:** Silica Sands FINAL v2.docx; Sand Mining Map.pdf

Jim

Brief as requested by the Premier.

Warm regards,  
Rachel



**Rachel Hunter**  
Director-General  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet  

---

P 07 3003 9387  
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

**From:** Mark Cridland <Mark.Cridland@resources.qld.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 December 2022 10:35 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hunter <rachel.hunter@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mike Kaiser (DSDILGP) <mike.kaiser@dasilgp.qld.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Shaun Ferris <Shaun.Ferris@resources.qld.gov.au>; Carlye Sycz <Carlye.Sycz@resources.qld.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Cape Flattery and Surrounds

Hi Rachel & Mike

As requested, please find attached Briefing Note on Cape York Silica Sands. I have also included a map for context.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Kind regards



**Mark Cridland**  
Director-General  
**Resources**  

---

P 07 3199 8218 M **Irrelevant**  
E [mark.cridland@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:mark.cridland@resources.qld.gov.au)  
Level 31, 1 William St, Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15216, City East QLD 4002

**Queensland** | *Good jobs  
Better services  
Great lifestyle*

**From:** Rachel Hunter <[rachel.hunter@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:rachel.hunter@premiers.qld.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 December 2022 3:24 PM

**To:** Mike Kaiser (DSDILGP); Mark Cridland  
**Subject:** RE: Cape Flattery and Surrounds

This looks good thank you Mike and Mark.

Warm regards,  
Rachel



**Rachel Hunter**

Director-General  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 3003 9387  
Level 40, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

**From:** Mike Kaiser <[Mike.Kaiser@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:Mike.Kaiser@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 December 2022 3:21 PM  
**To:** Mark Cridland (Resources) <[mark.cridland@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:mark.cridland@resources.qld.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Rachel Hunter <[rachel.hunter@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:rachel.hunter@premiers.qld.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Cape Flattery and Surrounds

Hi Mark,

As briefly discussed, Rachel would like a BN by Wednesday morning which provides an overview of the situation around existing and possible additional sand mining activity around Cape Flattery.

Important points to cover, I think, are:

- The nature and extent of Mitsubishi's existing sand mine (operational since the 60's I recall)
- The land tenure status of the various projects (my recollection is much of the land is covered by mining leases).
- The proponents – I can recall 3 – Diatreme, [Irrelevant] and [Irrelevant?]
- The drivers of demand – climate change!
- The opportunity for this to be a feed stock into future local panel manufacture (I recall credible discussions).
- Congress – local native title group – recent change of leadership.
- Next steps

Rachel, have I missed anything?



**Mike Kaiser**

**Director-General**  
Department of State Development, Infrastructure,  
Local Government and Planning

P 3452 7301 M [Irrelevant]  
Level 39, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15009, City East QLD 4002

[statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au)



*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Queensland. I offer my respect to elders past, present and emerging as we work towards a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.*



This email and any attachments may contain confidential or privileged information and may be protected by copyright. You must not use or disclose them other than for the purposes for which they were supplied. The confidentiality and privilege attached to this message and attachment is not waived by reason of mistaken delivery to you. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not use, disclose, retain, forward or reproduce this message or any attachments. If you receive this message in error please notify the sender by return email or telephone, and destroy and delete all copies. The Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage that may result from reliance on, or use of, any information contained in this email and/or attachments.

This email is intended only for the addressee. Its use is limited to that intended by the author at the time and it is not to be distributed without the author's consent. Unless otherwise stated, the State of Queensland accepts no liability for the contents of this email except where subsequently confirmed in writing. The opinions expressed in this email are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the State of Queensland. This email is confidential and may be subject to a claim of legal privilege. If you have received this email in error, please notify the author and delete this message immediately

The information in this email together with any attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. There is no waiver of any confidentiality/privilege by your inadvertent receipt of this material.

Any form of review, disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email message is prohibited, unless as a necessary part of Departmental business.

If you have received this message in error, you are asked to inform the sender as quickly as possible and delete this message and any copies of this message from your computer and/or your computer system network.

Released under the  
Official Information Act 2009

## CAPE YORK SILICA SANDS

### Silica sand

- Silica sand is a critical mineral used in the production of solar 'PV' panels, wind technologies, glass, smart phones, TVs and LED lights.
- Solar 'PV' panels are comprised of approximately 74% silica and make up approximately 90% of the total solar panels produced, installed, and operating today.
- Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan needs 25 million solar panels to meet its targets.
- The Australian Government has recently added silica sand to Australia's critical minerals list.
- The International Energy Agency reports to meet international energy and climate goals, the global deployment of solar 'PV' panels will need to grow on an unprecedented scale and global supply chains, including raw materials such as silica, will need to be scaled up.
- The global silica sand market is estimated to grow significantly in response to this demand, from US\$7 billion in 2018 to US\$20 billion in 2024 and reach 316 million tonnes per annum by 2026.

### Silica Operations in Cape York (see attached map)

- On Queensland's Cape York, there is one operational silica sand mine, Cape Flattery Silica Mines (CFSM).

- The mine is owned by Mitsubishi Corporation and has been operating since 1967.
- CFMS currently exports approximately 3 million tonnes per annum of very high purity silica sand.
- There are also three silica exploration projects located near Cape Flattery - Diatreme Resources Limited, [redacted] and [redacted].

### First Nations People

- Consistent with the Native Title Act, all exploration and mining companies seeking to operate in the area must negotiate with Hopevale Congress Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporation.
- Despite recent media reports that outline some traditional owner concerns with the projects, there is broad support from Hopevale Congress Aboriginal Corporation for the Diatreme Galalar Silica Sands Project (GSSP).
- Diatreme has been working in partnership with the Congress on the GSSP and the Hopevale Aboriginal Congress holds a 12.5 per cent equity in the project.
- In response to the recent media reports, Diatreme stated on 12 December 2022 that “during the course of the negotiations, Diatreme was advised by the independent legal counsel for Hopevale Congress that at 16 separate family meetings... attended by over

150 Thiithaar and Gamaay People, more than 95% of attendees support the company's Galalar Silica Sand Project".

### Next steps

- Key approvals remain outstanding for Diatreme and Irrelevant Irrelevant exploration projects including State and Federal environmental approvals, native title agreements, landowner agreements and mining and land leases.
- Both companies are actively progressing their approvals, with decisions during 2023 and 2024 likely required from both the State and Federal environmental regulators (Environmental Authorities and EPBC Referrals), the Department of Resources (Mining Leases), and Ports North (Port Development Approvals).

- Irrelevant

Released Under RTI/DPC

Thursday Island

Bamaga

Weipa

Released Under FOIA - DPC