



The Hon Scott Stewart MP
Minister for Resources

Our ref CTS 05734/21

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 12 March 2021, concerning petition No. 3406-20 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 9 March 2021, regarding the Galalar Silica Sand mine proposed by Diatreme Resources Limited.

The petition requests that the Queensland Government remove export options through the Endeavour River and the Nob Point port. The petition raises concerns that the Traditional Owners of affected areas have not been properly consulted to date and most are opposed to the proposals due to significant impacts on traditional and historical cultural values. The petition also provides that residents living along Endeavour Valley Road, Marton Boat ramp, on the river and the Cooktown and Hopevale communities are extremely concerned for their safety and health, the destruction of the river system, decline of native flora and fauna, the use of Endeavour Harbour, impacts on recreational fishing, decline in property values, impacts on businesses and tourism, the health of the Great Barrier Reef, and the negative social effects this project will have on Cooktown.

Resource projects are a major contributor to the Queensland economy and the government plays an important role in ensuring such developments are ecologically sustainable. The government is keen to see Diatreme work diligently and collaboratively with the Traditional Owners and the community.

The Galalar Silica Sand Project will require a range of approvals from the state and federal governments. A comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) is already underway, which will ensure the project is subject to a rigorous assessment of all environmental, social and economic impacts.

Importantly the EIS process involves extensive community consultation, including a requirement for a social impact assessment (SIA). The SIA outcomes include the existing social environment of communities potentially impacted by the project, the potential social impacts (both positive and negative) of the project, as well as how they will be managed and monitored and how the project will contribute to enhancing the sustainability of these communities.

As part of the EIS, Diatreme will be required to specifically address issues such as the barge loading and transshipping aspects of the project. It will need to adequately address any proposals to undertake transshipping of material in state waters or the Commonwealth marine area against relevant matters, including but not limited to:

- the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (2018) and any subsequent reviews, particularly with regard to its position on restricting new port development.
- the Cumulative Impact Management Policy (2018).
- the Net Benefit Policy (2018) iv. Great Barrier Reef Coast Strategic Assessment Reports (2014).
- the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019.
- the North-East Shipping Management Plan (2014) and any subsequent reviews vii. Queensland Transshipping Policy (2018).

Separate to the EIS, all mining leases in Queensland are subject to a public notification stage during which anyone can object to the application. Diatreme will be required to publish its mining lease application notice in either a hard copy newspaper or an online publication.

Other approvals needed before a mining lease is considered for approval include native title agreements and a landowner compensation agreement.

In relation to native title, the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* identifies who is a negotiating party for the purposes of the right to negotiate process. It also identifies the registered native title body corporate for the area of the application which is the negotiating party. In this case, the registered native title body corporate is the Hopevale Congress Aboriginal Corporation.

I provide you with this response for tabling in accordance with Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Brett Murphy, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3008 3500.

Yours sincerely



Scott Stewart MP
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