



Office of the
Coordinator-General

Our ref: DGBN24/101

30 May 2024

Mr Steve Linnane
Chief Executive Officer
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
ceo@hopevale.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Linnane

I wish to advise that I have approved the release of the Northern Silica project draft terms of reference (TOR) for the environmental impact statement (EIS). The draft TOR will be available for public and advisory agency comment from Monday, 3 June 2024 to Monday, 8 July 2024.

Public notices seeking comments on the draft TOR will be placed in *The Weekend Australian*, *The Courier Mail* and *Cairns Post* on Saturday, 1 June 2024, and the *Cape York Weekly* and Tuesday, 4 June 2024.

The proponent, Northern Silica Pty Ltd, proposes to construct and operate a greenfield silica sand mine and processing plant at Cape Flattery, 30 kilometres north-east of Hope Vale and 200 kilometres north of Cairns. The project proposes to extract up to 6.25 million tonnes per annum of high quality silica sand for 25 years. The product is proposed to be exported via bulk carrier ocean-going vessels within the Port of Cape Flattery to target markets in Asia.

I am writing to you as the project has the potential to generate significant economic and employment benefits for the Hope Vale community as well as have social, economic and cultural impacts on nearby communities. I will consider all comments in finalising the TOR, which will be issued to the proponent as matters to be addressed in the EIS.

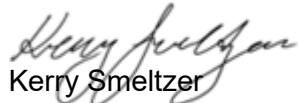
On 14 June 2023, the delegate of the Australian Minister for the Environment and Water determined that the project is a controlled action and will require approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC 2023/09485) before it can proceed. The project will be assessed under the bilateral agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments. The draft TOR covers both matters of national and State environmental significance.

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The draft TOR and the project's initial advice statement are available at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/nsp.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Karen Oakley, Director, Office of the Coordinator-General at karen.oakley@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au or on (07) 3452 7414, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Kerry Smeltzer
Assistant Coordinator-General
Project Evaluation and Facilitation
(as delegate of the Coordinator-General)