



Global Sand Supply Opportunity

Vision.

Northern Territory has the potential to become the sand supplier of choice to Australia and Asia.

Background.

Concrete is synonymous with modern development, and it is 70% sand. Sources of sand are becoming increasingly difficult to locate and extract. Demand is increasing rapidly and outstripping supply, leading to the “world is running out of sand”¹. Sustainably sourced sand is in particularly short supply.

The opportunity.

A global cultural shift towards sustainably sourced material² is expected to increase with corresponding increase in prices paid. Central Northern Territory has vast amounts of every specification of sand, that can be extracted sustainably to meet this increasing demand. There are several immediate demand points, Beetaloo Basin Gas, NT general construction requirements, international “fill” and construction material needs, Southeast Australia construction demand and globally high purity silica. These demand points combined and NT’s plentiful, sustainable resource sites, potentially lead to economies of scale, making this a sustainable and major economic opportunity.

The challenge.

Primarily the land transport costs.

The solution.

- 1- Take a long-term view, 30 years plus and act now.
- 2- Industry and Government collaboration to invest in infrastructure that will significantly reduce the land logistics costs predominantly from capturing economies of scale and harnessing latest technologies.
- 3- “Shift” all sand extraction activity in the NT to these sustainable locations.

Action

Commission a study to assess the feasibility of capturing this commercial and environmental opportunity.

¹ [Why the world is running out of sand \(bbc.com\)](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-45888888)

² [Sand and Sustainability: 10 Strategic Recommendations to Avert a Crisis | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](https://www.unep.org/press/2017/05/sand-and-sustainability-10-strategic-recommendations-to-avert-a-crisis)