

2 December 2011

Aboriginal cultural heritage and the proposed Chiltern quarry

Indigo Shire Council today received a letter from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs stating that the proposed quarry on Skeleton Hill at Chiltern will not impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Indigo Mayor Cr Larry Goldsworthy said the Minister had approved a report of an audit of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the site of the proposed quarry which confirmed that the quarry will not impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

“The Minister says in her letter ‘that concerns that the quarry’s impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage will be greater than first thought are not substantiated’,” Cr Goldsworthy said. “In effect, this removes Aboriginal cultural heritage as an impediment to the quarry proceeding.”

Cr Goldsworthy said Council in December last year refused an application by Holcim to build a quarry on the site. “Holcim appealed that decision and the matter is in the hands of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. VCAT is yet to hand down its decision,” he said.

“The Chiltern community was strongly against this quarry and put their case forward as part of the VCAT hearings process. Council has backed the community all the way on this issue. We can only wait to see what the final VCAT decision is.”

END

Indigo Shire Mayor Cr Larry Goldsworthy
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