

Friends of Skeleton Hill
P.O. Box 151
CHIILTERN
Vic. 3683

The Border Mail
1 McKoy Street
WODONGA
Vic. 3689

Dear Sir / Madam,

Press Release

Re: Friends of Skelton Hill

In response to Cemex's proposed new quarry site located on the top of a prominent landmark in Chiltern, a growing number of concerned Chiltern residents have been joined by people from all around Australia and formed the "**Friends of Skeleton Hill**" (FofSH).

Spokesperson for FofSH, Graeme Charles, said "We formed this group because we are deeply concerned about the significant impacts the proposed quarry site will have not just on the biodiversity of the Chiltern-Mt-Pilot National Park, but also because of the broader impact it is likely to have on the township of Chiltern as a whole"

"The **Friends of Skeleton Hill** want to make it clear that we do not oppose new quarries, but we oppose this development mainly because of the proposed location. Cemex could not have picked a more visually sensitive site. The visual impact of a quarry on top of Skeleton Hill will change the perception people have about the township of Chiltern. We do not want to be known as the town next to the quarry on the hill. The residents of Chiltern and the town itself, deserve a lot more respect. There are many things that Chiltern probably needs, however a quarry on such a visually sensitive place is not one of them" Graeme went on to say.

It is understood that a number of possible alternative sites for this proposed quarry exist. Recently, Cemex have been questioned in relation to misleading comments in their referral submissions to the State and Federal Governments relating to alternative sites in the Indigo Valley. "It is our intention to ensure that these sites and other known suitable sites are investigated further," said Graeme.

The group was formed in April, as a growing number of people recognised that a central point of contact and reference was needed to focus objections to this proposal. Graeme said "the number of people joining is quite staggering and we are pleasantly surprised that so many people both locally and across Australia, recognise that a quarry on Skeleton Hill is not in anyone's best interests."

People wishing to join the **Friends of Skeleton Hill** can do so by contacting Graeme Charles on 03 5726 1173 or email gcharles@communityaction.coop or Shane Giddens on 0428 221 343.

The group aims to have a website established in the coming weeks. "Once we have completed the Website we will issue another Press Release with all relevant information and any further contact details" said Graeme.