

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 23 October 2019

C1338. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment

I refer to the document "Effects of moisture, micronutrient supplies and microbiological activity on the surface pH of rocks in the Burrup Peninsula" authored by Ian D MacLeod and reference to the site "most acidic rock in June 2003 (pH 3.58) was found down in a gully a few hundred metres downwind from the gas production facility" known as the big Goanna petroglyph.

1. Is the Minister aware that the acidity of this site has changed remarkably to that of almost neutral in the region of a pH reading of 7 in the last year when all the surrounding rocks still retained a reading of approximately pH 3.6.
2. If yes to 1.) does the Minister understand the reason for this dramatic change?
3. If no to 1.) will the Minister investigate why the pH has changed?

Answer

1-3. It is not clear to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation which site the Honourable Member is referring to in the question. If the Honourable Member provides further details, the Department can give further consideration to the issue.

The McGowan Government has committed to a reliable scientific investigation on these matters and has released the Murujuga Rock Art Strategy which provides a monitoring, analysis and decision-making framework to protect Aboriginal rock art. The monitoring program will deliver a scientifically rigorous approach to monitoring and analysis. The procurement of the monitoring program is anticipated to conclude by the end of 2019.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT;
DISABILITY SERVICES; ELECTORAL AFFAIRS**