



Too close to industry - local Indigenous rock formation and sacred site 'Boyay Gogomit' [Nyoongar for the Molkpoke or Tawny Frogmouth].
Photograph courtesy of Bill Macham

Sacred sites "ignored" for quarry expansion

By Kristy Moroney

Local Indigenous Elders have accused Hanson Australia's current extension of 5.4 hectares to the Red Hill quarry site as a breach of recommendations from the Department of Indigenous

Affairs. Further to their disappointment in current work taking place near Indigenous sites of significance, local Elders are appalled at the proposed extension of the quarry of up to 80 hectares.

"We do not understand how the City of Swan and Western Australian Planning Commission have allowed this unlawful situation to proceed.

"The Hanson consultants have dishonestly implied that there have been

proper archeological and ethnographic studies conducted on the area. "This is not the case. Any reading of the studies referred to in the Hanson Public Environmental Review [PER] show they were done for different purposes and are incomplete and inadequate to enable the Environmental Protection Agency to make any proper assessment." the Traditional Owners state.

Indigenous sites of significance such as 'Boyay

Gogomit' [pictured] have been overlooked in assessments of the local area as well as other rock formations, carvings and paintings.

Albert Corunna local Elder, said there had been too much "desktop surveying" by Hanson and their consultants and not enough interaction with local Nyoongars or getting out and taking a proper look at the area.

"The whole Susannah Valley is a sacred site, unfortunately because

some of these areas are so hard to get to and some kept secret for cultural reasons, the sites are not recognised by everyone," he said.

"The current work being done at the quarry threatens 'Boyay Gogomit' as constant machinery vibration may see the

rock formation topple over."

Hanson Australia's Operations Manager, John Symonds said local Indigenous people had recently had two visits to the site, reports were being prepared and the company was following up on their requests.

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