

Urea plant gets Federal nod

ADAMORLANDO

THE \$3.5 billion urea plant at Collicie will be a boon for the South West and is expected to generate annual export earnings exceeding \$800 million, Perdaman Industries says.

The project, approved last week by the Federal Government, will be Australia's first gasification plant and is expected to create more than 1500 jobs during the construction phase and 200 permanent positions over the duration of the operation.

Perdaman managing director Vikas Rambal said the approval from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts was a key requirement for the project to get off the ground.

"The Federal approval highlights

the support that both the State and Federal governments are willing to provide the project and the optimism surrounding such an important development in the South West," he said.

Collicie Chamber of Commerce chief executive officer Richard Jackson told the *South Western Times* construction of the project would come at an ideal time for the coal-mining town, when the BIIP Billiton Worsley alumina expansion "tails off".

"We feel that Perdaman, with their consultation with the community not just during but before the approvals process, have been very professional and very patient with the various departments," he said.

Bunbury Wellington Economic Al-

liance CEO Matt Granger said the Federal approval was a significant milestone in a historic project, which represents a new chapter in adding value to the South West's primary resources.

"The project will create major employment opportunities, both during construction and long-term operation," he said.

"The employment and procurement of business services would have a multiplier effect throughout the South West.

"Importantly, the project has also provided impetus to establishing the Shotts Industrial Park which will be a focus for other coal-related, value-adding industries."