

Barnett promises \$80m to urea plant

■ Georgia Loney

Indian fertiliser tycoon Vikas Rambal's plan for a \$3.8 billion coal-fired urea plant in Collie received a major boost when the State Government pledged more than \$80 million in road and water upgrades to help the project yesterday.

Premier Colin Barnett was in the town with Mr Rambal to talk up the project set to create 2000 jobs.

Mr Rambal, the former right-hand man of Pankaj Oswal at Burup Fertilisers until a bitter falling out, reassured Collie he was in for the long haul and said he hoped construction would start in the second half of the year.

Financiers were to visit the South West town next week for final due diligence on the project.

The Department of Water has approved more than 12 billion litres

of water a year to go to the plant.

Mr Barnett said the Perdaman plant would be a huge contributor to the economy and would create 1500 jobs during construction.

More than \$65 million would be given to the Water Corporation to upgrade pipes to the Shotts Industrial Park, where the urea plant will be built.

"This is a new generation of investment for WA," Mr Barnett said.