

Lots of paperwork

THE former Shotts townsite – 250 hectares near Collie – will be transformed into a heavy industry park, clearing the way for Vikas Rambal's \$3.5 billion urea project, Premier Colin Barnett said on Friday.

"We will assemble, rezone and subdivide land to create a new industrial park, the Shotts Industrial Park," Mr Barnett said.

"Our decision will help secure Collie's future as an industrial and employment centre.

"Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers will use about 140ha for its proposed coal gas to urea plant, which will leave more than 100ha available for other coal-related industries."

"The park is well served for power, roads and rail, as well as having access to resources and a skilled workforce.

Mr Barnett said the land, about seven kilometres east of Collie's town centre, was owned by the Government, but held under a variety of titles and zonings.

Because of its long history of mining and then alumina processing, Collie had wonderful infrastructure for industry, the Premier said. It had road and rail access to the nearby Bunbury port, miner-

als and power generation.

An industrial park had been suggested for many years and Collie-Preston MLA Mick Murray "had played a role in what has got us to this point," Mr Barnett said.

Regional Development and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls was heavily involved in taking all the different parcels of land and titles and bringing them together into one 250ha estate.

Mr Grylls said LandCorp would develop the industrial park, using \$1.5 million provided from the Collie region and Coal Industry Infrastructure Fund, administered by the Department of Commerce.

Shotts Industrial Park developments would have to pass full environmental approval processes to assure the future for the people of Collie and its vital assets including forests, parks and farms.

But Mr Barnett declared the plant would not be an environmental risk. "The environment is important but let's concentrate on the serious issues," he said. "This plant is not a serious environmental issue." Mr Barnett also said "It's just all good news. Western

Australia is going against the trend here, you know the rest of Australia is sort of talking itself into recession, Western Australia is not going to allow that to happen.

"I'm not denying there will be job losses and some industries will face a tough time, probably a lot of small businesses might struggle to get through, but the big projects that drive this state we'll keep on pushing."

Collie Shire Council is also involved in rezoning the land.

Chief executive officer Jason Whiteaker said: "From our point of view, rezoning of the land is required. Some of it is freehold and some reserve does not require a zoning. With the rezoning by government, we would need to support it which, of course, we do, The Government is developing the estate then there will be the development applications, which will be approved by us."

One of the reasons Collie was so attractive for industry was because it was backed by excellent infrastructure. "Investment by the State and local government will be negligible," he said.



On-site: WA Premier Colin Barnett and Perdaman chairman and managing director Vikas Rambal at Shotts Pak on Friday.