

# Leaders welcome huge investment

LOCAL business leaders say the \$3.5 billion urea manufacturing plant is the biggest single investment in the region. And South-West Development Commission chief executive Don Punch welcomed recent approval for the allocation of land at Shotts to establish the estate.

“The site is ideal for such a venture and there has already been interest from companies keen to set up operations there, including Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers,” Mr Punch said.

The next stage of the Shotts Industrial Park project was to start with the land assembly and approvals process so that a major industrial site could be established at Shotts.

“The South-West Development Commission has played a key role in getting this project off the ground and will continue to coordinate the development of the new industrial park,” he said.

Collie Shire president Wayne Sanford said the proposal was positive for Collie in terms of employment, the local economy and the south-west.

“From the council’s point of view, we have worked hard to establish a heavy

industrial park and the announcement so that it has been given the go ahead is good news and it supports council’s vision,” he said. “If more industry is attracted to the site then it will make a positive impact.”

Approvals were still needed to make the industrial park and its identified tenant, the fertiliser plant, a reality. “There are environment approvals and Perdaman will need to go through a community consultation process,” Cr Sanford said.

“It is still early days but it is good to see people helping it get going.”

Bunbury Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s chief executive Allan Birrell said: “The proposed start date of the plant will coincide with the beginning of the end of the \$2.5 billion Worsley expansion, ensuring the economic benefits provided to the south-west by that program will be continued.”

- People will be able to find out more when Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers’ projects director Joseph McCarthy, talks at the South-west Focus Conference in Bunbury on April 2. For more information, visit [www.south-westfocus.com.au](http://www.south-westfocus.com.au)