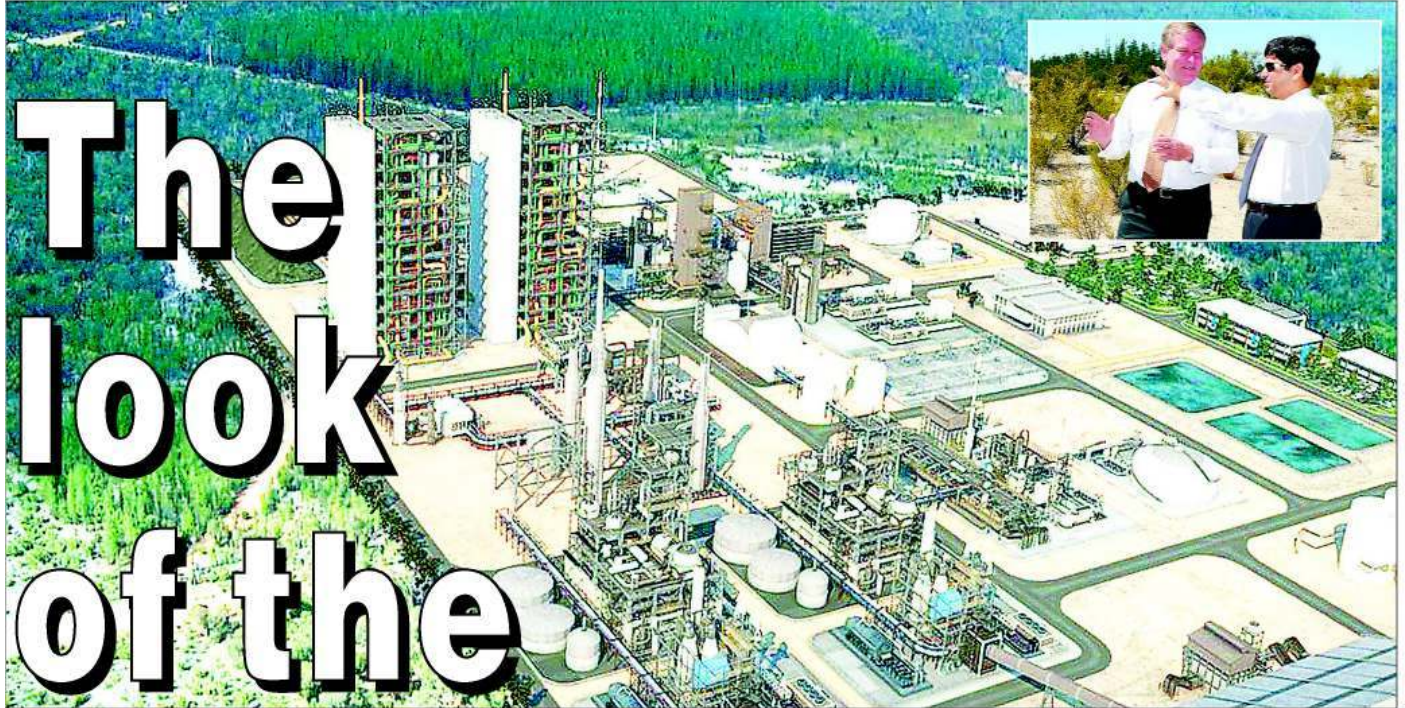


\$3.5 billion urea plant promises bonanza for Collie



The look of the future

Main picture: an artist's impression of the multi-billion dollar urea plant planned for Collie's yet-to-be-developed Shotts Park industrial estate. **Inset:** Perdaman boss Vikas Rambal (right) and WA Premier Colin Barnett.

THE \$3.5 billion urea manufacturing plant at Collie's Shotts Industrial Park will generate more than \$850 million a year in export earnings for Western Australia, Perdaman Industries boss Vikas Rambal promised on Friday.

The first shipment is scheduled for 2013.

If all approvals are safely negotiated, construction is due to start early next year and the urea plant will generate about 1500 jobs during the three-year construction phase and 200 permanent jobs when plant operations begin.

"The plant has the capacity to produce two million tonnes of urea per

annum and, while we are looking at the opportunity to supply local markets, the majority will be exported for global use," Mr Rambal said at last Friday's official project launch in Collie. The Indian Government has contracted to buy two million tonnes a year.

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Bonanza for Collie

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Perdaman plans to use environmentally friendly, “best-in-class” technologies to transform sub-bituminous coal through innovative and low-emission coal gasification technology.

The solids from the gasification process are primarily in the form of slag, a stable material that does not leach and can be used as fill. It has also been used as sand blasting material.

Other solids produced, sometimes labelled ash (though not the same as power plant fly ash) are stable and sold for cement manufacturing.

The sulphur would also be sold.

Carbon dioxide produced is used in the urea production. The balance would be caught and made ready for sequestration.

This should help the

plant and its processes negotiate the necessary environmental approvals.

WA Premier Colin Barnett and his Cabinet are obviously enamoured by the project.

Getting it past all the Commonwealth approvals may be more difficult.

However, the technology is used in other parts of the world, such as the United States. More than 140 coal gasification plants around the world, provide feedstock gas to make products ranging from fuels to fertilisers to power. Well-known gasification technology providers include Shell, Texaco, Siemens, Lurgi and Uhde.

“This is an exciting development for Collie,” Mr Rambal said. “For example, we will be sourcing our coal requirements from Griffin’s local operations and we

are looking forward to consulting with the local community to ensure that they have a real understanding of the project as we work through the approvals process in the lead up to construction.

“We believe our project is exactly the type of initiative the Federal Government is keen to encourage as coal gasification represents a low-emission use of coal that is ‘sequester-ready’ for when carbon capture and storage becomes available on a commercial scale.

“If the community is serious about creating a low-emission future for our coal resources, then this is a prime example of the type of new investment in the coal industry that this country can attract,” he said.

Fertilisers were essential to meet the expanding global population’s in-

creased demand for food. And urea was undeniably the most efficient of the fertilisers available today. It could increase crop yields by 800 kilograms per hectare per year, Mr Rambal said.

It was also safe, clean, easily transported and economical to manufacture and apply.

“We believe very strongly that Western Australia, along with Perdaman Industries, is now in an excellent position to help solve the worldwide shortage of fertiliser while adding value to Australia’s existing coal resources,” Mr Rambal said.

The plant’s construction and operation was much-needed good economic news for both the Collie region, the state of WA and Australia, he told the crowd.