

# Industry park boost for area

By SARA BRENNAN

COLLIE-Preston MLA Mick Murray says the the 250ha heavy industry park to be built near Collie will draw new residents to the area.

The State Government approved the heavy industry park near Collie last Friday, clearing the way for the construction of a \$3.5 billion fertiliser plant.

The fertiliser plant will top Worsley Alumina's \$2.5 billion expansion of its Collie refinery as the single biggest investment in the region.

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

related industries.

"The industry park's location on the east side of Collie will encourage many new workers to live in the area," Mr Murray said.

The project, tipped to start construction by mid-2010, is expected to generate about 1500 jobs during its three-year construction phase and to provide 200 permanent jobs when operating.

Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers have signed a 25-year deal with Griffin, which would supply around 2.7 million tonnes of coal to the project each year to fuel the plant.

Mr Murray said the timing of the industry park was perfect as there were very few projects being an-

nounced due to the current economic climate.

"This project will maintain the flow of employment as the first Bluwaters Power Station will be finished in the near future," he said.

Mr Murray said the industry park would broaden the employment and industrial base of the South West.

"The project will generate additional local employment and business opportunities for Collie, while adding value to a locally mined resource," Mr Murray said.

"Six blocks have been released in the light industrial area nearby so small industry can locate there to service the heavy industry park."