

# Urea plant a step closer

PERDAMAN Chemicals and Fertilisers' \$3.5 billion urea project has been granted major project facilitation (MPF) status by the Federal Government.

The Federal Government will respond to issues promptly now the project has this status.

MPF is intended to facilitate and support private sector investment proposals throughout the approvals process.

The Federal Department of Environment has finished its assessment and Perdaman is waiting for findings from that process. The EPA is expected to release its report within the next couple of weeks.

If the project gets the green light, it will be Australia's first gasification plant, turning Collie coal into urea (fertiliser) for export to India.

Annual export earnings are expected to be more than \$800 million — apart from generating considerable local employment in the construction stage and even when operational.

Infrastructure and, Regional Development Minister Anthony Albanese said MPF highlighted the Government's efforts to support investment that would position Australia to take full advantage of the global economic recovery.

Perdaman corporate director Andreas Walewski said it was another step forward for the project.

"Achieving Major Project Facilitation status shows the level of support the State and Federal Government are willing to provide for the project and underlines the significance this project will have to industry innovation and economic growth," he said.

Perdaman has developed an Australian Industry Participation Plan to ensure that Australian industry is provided with full, fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in the project.

Perdaman plans to start construction on the project in the last quarter of this year.