

\$700m boost for Burrup

GRAHAM MASON

The world's biggest ammonia plant has been completed on the Burrup Peninsula with the Indian owners forecasting an expansion pending a gas deal with the WA Government.

Indian company Burrup Fertilisers built the \$700 million plant, which will produce 760,000 tonnes of liquid ammonia per year for the next 25 years, employing 1100 people during construction.

Alan Carpenter said the plant was the first major Indian capital investment of its kind in WA and strengthened the State's relationship with a country that was now WA's fourth biggest trading partner.

"From nothing we have now got the

world's biggest ammonia plant in WA servicing fertiliser requirements for India and the rest of the world," the Premier said.

The plant will use natural gas as feedstock to produce liquid ammonia primarily for the production of fertiliser with the product piped direct to Dampier port for export markets.

The first shipment of ammonia will leave in May 2007

Mr Carpenter also announced yesterday that Oakajee, about 20km north of Geraldton, was the preferred site for a new privately funded deep-water port.

He said the development of Oakajee would support the expansion of iron ore mining in the region.