

House: Legislative Assembly- QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE
Date: Thursday, 15 May 2003
Member: Marlborough, Mr Norm; Brown, Mr Clive
Subject: AMMONIA PLANT, BURRUP INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
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AMMONIA PLANT, BURRUP INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

723. Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH to the Minister for State Development:

I refer the minister to an article on page 26 of *The West Australian* of Monday, 12 May 2003 which reported that work had begun on the world's biggest ammonia plant, marking the first development on the ground in the multi-billion dollar Burrup industrial estate.

- (1) Is the minister aware of this article?
- (2) Can the minister advise the Parliament on the significance of this project to other projects proposed for the Burrup?

Mr C.M. BROWN replied:

(1)-(2) I thank the member for Peel for that very important question. As members know, a number of projects have commenced on the Burrup Peninsula. The **Burrup fertiliser** project, worth \$630 million, is now under way, and I am sure more projects will follow. I know that you, Mr Speaker, have been a strong supporter of industrial development in your electorate and of all of the jobs it provides in your electorate and in the Pilbara generally, as well as in Perth and the south west. This is an important project and it will provide highly skilled jobs. The Government is optimistic that a number of other projects will commence on the Burrup Peninsula. We have advised in various media releases that we are looking at developing other projects on the Burrup and we are at various stages of examining them. Those projects involve Dampier Nitrogen Pty Ltd, LiquiGaz, Japan DME Ltd, DME International and others. This is a very important area of the State. It is good that we are working positively with Minister McFarlane at a national level trying to get a number of these projects up and running. Both the State and federal Governments are strongly committed to seeing the Burrup fully developed. Not everybody has a perfect idea about all the projects that will occur on the Burrup; there are always some doubting Thomases, and one of those is the Leader of the Opposition. He made this comment -

When I was Minister for Resources Development, we were hopeful that a number of projects would proceed. The most advanced project at that stage was the Syntroleum Sweetwater Operations gas-to-liquids project. The next most advanced was the Plenty River Corporation Ltd project. We allocated land on Hearson Cove for two projects, and also for a third project that I think is far less probable.

That project was Burrup Fertilisers Pty Ltd. Every time the Leader of the Opposition gets up and professes to predict the future on these matters, he is pretty wrong. I am pleased that this project is getting up; we are working actively on a number of other projects, including that of Methanex Corporation. Methanex will be a difficult project, and, unlike some members of the Opposition who were quite gleeful when it looked as though we had lost that project, we continue to work with that company to secure that investment for Western Australia.

You will remember, Mr Speaker, that prior to your time as Speaker and when Labor was in opposition, you made a very good speech about the Leader of the Opposition, the then Minister for Resources Development, being the leader of press releases, because when a project was going to start there was press release after press release, and the only consistent thing about those projects was that none of them ever did start.