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## **Carpenter fails to deliver on Burrup**

### **Another value-adding project falls down despite Labor Government assistance**

State Development Minister Alan Carpenter has had his bid for Premier deflated by news that another proposed project on the Burrup Peninsular looks set to fall over.

Plentex, formerly known as Plenty River Corporation, a key partner the proposed development of a \$900 million ammonium plant has withdrawn its support from the project, despite the State Government having already committed \$183 million in infrastructure for the Burrup.

Shadow Minister for Commerce and Trade Simon O'Brien said this was just one in increasingly long list of projects that Labor has failed to deliver on.

Another Burrup project under consideration, an ammonium nitrate plant for Indian company Deepak Fertilisers, also appeared unlikely to go ahead in the near future.

Mr O'Brien will meet representatives of the company on his scheduled visit to India next month.

"Since they came to power, Labor has touted at least eight possible projects for the Burrup, but only one has been secured," Mr O'Brien said.

"More than \$183 million in taxpayers' money has been committed to the Burrup, but so far the people of Western Australia have not got their money's worth.

"Labor's failure to attract significant investment projects to the Burrup at a time where the international resources industry is booming means that Western Australia is again missing out on the benefits of value-adding projects.

"Western Australia is resources rich, but Mr Carpenter has failed dismally to maximise the potential of these valuable commodities.

"Labor needs to recognise that we must make the most of these non-renewable resources to secure the State's economic future.

"Value-adding downstream processing projects not only provide long term employment opportunities but also assist in population retention in regional areas and help protect against the volatility of unprocessed commodity prices.

"After a month's holiday Mr Carpenter has come back and focused his efforts on canvassing support for his bid to be Premier, while a major project that would have meant long-term jobs and revenue for the State is in serious doubt.

“Maybe if Mr Carpenter paid as much attention to his portfolio as he is paying to his personal ambitions, then this situation would not have arisen.”

**Media Contact: Simon O’Brien – 0412 369 221**