

HON. ROBIN CHAPPLE MLC

Greens (WA) MLC, Robin Chapple: Beirut explosion sounds alarm over the dangers of ammonium nitrate production in WA's North West.

“My heart goes out to the people of Lebanon, and to their families and friends in Beirut. The destruction in Lebanon was a devastating incident showcasing just how much care and stringent protocols need to be adhered to when dealing with volatile chemicals - I question whether it is even worth the risk in WA”

Robin Chapple MLC, WA Greens Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region, has raised concerns over the Yara fertiliser plant, the Technical Ammonia plant and other proposed fertiliser production projects, on WA's Burrup Peninsula in the wake of the recent ammonium nitrates explosion in Beirut.

Mr Chapple has pointed to the Yara corporation's development of ammonia and subsequent Technical Ammonium nitrate facilities as being capable of producing the same compounds that resulted in the Beirut explosion.

“The production and storage of these compounds carries significant risk - both immediately and over time - to everyone and everything in the vicinity” he commented,

“We shouldn't have had to 'wait and see' the explosive potential of such compounds to know they are a danger to the Burrup, and an obvious threat to human life”.

For decades, Mr Chapple has fought for the protection of precious heritage rock art in situ on the Peninsula; placing the blame for the continuing degradation of prominent West Australian cultural heritage on the presence of these petrochemical and fertiliser plants.

“The slow tragedy we are witnessing on the Burrup could wipe out millions of petroglyphs created by our earliest ancestors and I feel strongly that we must intervene now so that more of our common humanity is spared from the devastation such products have wrought globally”

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