

RUTH RUSSELL, SA Senate Candidate

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## ACT NOW TO SAVE COUNTRY & KEEP FOOD COSTS DOWN

Governments must act now to stop an exodus of farmers from the land and keep healthy food on the table for Australian families says Democrats Senate candidate Ruth Russell.

"An exodus of farming families would cripple rural communities. It would devastate local businesses, and lead to cuts in schools and other services as numbers fall below critical levels."

"Big increases in food prices will hurt ordinary families in the city."

"State and Federal Governments must act now to head off this disaster."

"The Government should review rigid Centrelink rules that might be blocking farmers access to Exceptional Circumstances relief but it would be better to use farmers skills to help the environment and the economy."

"Firstly we need to look at paying farmers to work on environmental projects."

"Second Governments must keep services in the country. That will help stabilise local economies and give families a reason to stay."

"Third there should be an inquiry into reports that new plantings of almonds and apples are going into the Riverland and over in Victoria.

"It does not seem fair or sensible that big corporations are putting in new plantings while citrus growers are struggling to keep their trees alive."

"Fourth we need to look at expanding food coops and community gardens to help keep fresh, healthy food on the tables of Australian families."

"City and country have to stick together to get through this crisis. That's the best solution for the environment and for our communities." said Ms Russell.

**MEDIA CONTACT: RUTH RUSSELL 0414 974 755**