

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## DIESEL FUEL REBATE – TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE?

The member for Murchison, Ruth Forrest has called on the Federal Treasurer, Hon Peter Costello MP, to review the Energy Grants Credits Scheme, to provide practical and much needed support to farmers.

The EGCS Scheme is available to primary producers and provides them with a rebate for fuel used in the purposes of their primary production business. Currently the rebate is \$0.38429 per litre with a planned reduction of this rebate to \$0.38143 in January, 2006. "With all the media regarding the plight of our farmer's, this will be the fourth consecutive reduction in this rebate since January 2004 and all this in the face of ever increasing fuel prices demands the Federal Government review this Scheme as a matter of urgency" Ms Forrest stated.

"I find it incredible that at a time when our farmers are facing their toughest battle for many years, the Federal Government would be reducing the amount of rebate payable to farmers, rather than increasing it", said Ms Forrest.

Ms Forrest has called on her State and Federal counterparts to support her in her efforts to have the rebate increased. "This is an issue that does not take years of research or reviews to see what is needed to be done – it is obvious what is needed and it is needed now" Ms Forrest said.

"Many of the constituents that I represent are from the rural sector engaged in primary production. The Fair Dinkum Food Campaign has highlighted the plight of our vegetable farmers and their struggle, not only with food labelling laws, but to remain competitive in a global market" Ms Forrest stated.

"Local, State and Federal politicians have jumped on the band wagon in support of our farmers – which is fantastic and I fully support - but here is an issue that could and should be addressed immediately, particularly in light of the \$4.4 billion surplus, providing immediate relief in monetary terms for our farmers" Ms Forrest said.

For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.