



**Drought affected can access financial assistance
13 December 2006**

The Federal Government's provision of interim assistance to farmers, agriculturally dependent businesses and their families through the current drought has been welcomed by the Shadow Small Business Minister Liz Penfold.

Mrs Penfold said the interim assistance available from Centrelink applied to all of Eyre Peninsula, the Murray Mallee and the Upper South East while the regions' applications for Exceptional Circumstances were being assessed.

"I also remind farmers, including those in companies or trusts, that stamp duty relief is available to refinance, increase or take out a new mortgage between October 25 2006 and December 31 2007 for working capital and normal operating costs as a consequence of drought," she said.

More information is available on www.revenuesa.sa.gov

Mrs Penfold said the Federal Government's action complemented that of the Australian Bankers Association in helping clients prepare for and deal with drought conditions.

"The association recommends that farmer customers who may be concerned about their financial position speak to their banks about their options," she said.

She said the Australian Bankers Association and the Grain Growers Association donated copies of the book, *Financing Your Farm*, to rural financial counsellors because of its useful information for counsellors and clients.

Mrs Penfold said she has been advised that two important chapters of the book are provided free on the websites of the ABA (www.bankers.asn.au) and GGA (www.graingrowers.com.au).

The book, costing \$54.95 plus postage, can be ordered from the Kondinin publishers website www.kondinin.com.au or free call 1800 677 761.

Application forms for Exceptional Circumstances interim income support are available from Centrelink offices or by calling 13 23 16.