



# FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **MASSIVE FOOD PRICE HIKES UNDER EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME**

THE Rudd Government must ensure that the introduction of an emissions trading scheme (ETS) will not push basic food prices out of reach of ordinary Australians, Family First Leader Senator Steve Fielding said today.

“Farmers fear that Australia’s food production industry could be crippled because they will have to shoulder massive price hikes in production and energy costs and farmers are warning that higher costs will have to be passed on to consumers,” Senator Fielding said.

“If Australia’s emission trading scheme, prices our farmers out of competitive international markets, it will not only risk our food export business but also undermine our own domestic market with farmers unable to compete with cheaper imports. Also, Family First does not want ordinary Australians unable to buy basic food because costs have skyrocketed under an ETS.

“Australia’s farm production underpins 1.6 million Australian jobs and produces 93% of Australia’s domestic food supply. We need to act with caution before we muck about with that,” said Senator Fielding.

“Addressing climate change is important, we all agree on that, but so is ensuring families can afford food to eat and farmers can sustain their livelihoods.”

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