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Helping hand for country

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REGIONAL EDITOR

CITY residents have been urged to help keep food on the table for their country counterparts who are battling their third successive year of drought.

Premier Mike Rann yesterday launched the South Australian Country Women's Association public appeal to help farming families make ends meet.

He said it was everyone's responsibility to reach out and support farmers during the drought. The State Government pledged \$250,000 to kickstart the appeal.

"The effects of the drought ... sometimes come on very slowly and worsens and worsens," Mr Rann said.

"The demand for help continues to grow."

CWA state president Mary Shattock said its volunteers had raised \$1.2 million for its Emergency Aid Fund but that money had been spent.

"We'll be able to start handing this out straight away and will continue to take donations as long as it is needed," she said.

The CMV Foundation donated \$20,000 at yesterday's launch and public donations can be made at any BankSA branch.