

To The Community Affairs Legislation Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the mandatory labelling of Palm Oil on all food products.

The uncontrolled destruction of rainforest in South east Asia especially and increasingly in other parts of the world is a global emergency from a carbon and biodiversity perspective.

Asian elephants, Sumatran tigers and one of our closest relatives the Orang-utan are all under serious threat from habitat loss and if the current rate of forest destruction for palm oil plantations continues we could easily see orang-utans and Sumatran tigers going extinct in less than 10 years.

This can't be allowed to happen.

As consumers we are unwittingly contributing to the problem by purchasing food and other products containing palm oil.

The fact that a number of food manufacturers have voluntarily switched from palm oil to more sustainable alternatives, or have voluntarily chosen to label palm oil indicates the strong consumer sentiment on this issue. People really do want the choice!

This is the time to pass this bill. We don't have time to delay on this issue and unless labelling palm oil is compulsory for all food products then most food manufacturers will continue to use cheaper unsustainable palm oil in their products. Please don't delay on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Rick Hammond