



# Palm oil hearings

The House Economics Committee will hold two days of hearings into the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2011. The Bill requires makers or distributors of foods with palm oil as an ingredient to actually list palm oil on its contents label.

Currently, food containing palm oil can be labelled as containing vegetable oil. Much palm oil production is claimed to be associated with deforestation and the destruction of wildlife habitat, including that of the Orang-utan. However, some palm oil is produced sustainably.

Chair of the House Economics Committee Craig Thomson said, “The Committee will hear from a wide range of interest groups. Opinions on palm oil and its production vary widely. The Committee will take this opportunity to test the various claims.”

## Program - Parliament House, Canberra, Committee Room 2R1

Thursday, 18 August		Friday, 19 August	
9.15 am	Dept of Health and Food Standards Australia New Zealand	9.15 am	Institute of Public Affairs
10 am	Dept of Agriculture and Dept of Innovation	9.45 am	Accord Australasia
10.45 am	Australian Food and Grocery Council	10.15 am	Taronga Zoo and Zoos Victoria
11.25 am	Malaysian Ministry of Plantation Industries and Malaysian palm oil industry	10.55 am	Australian Oilseeds Federation and Australian Institute of Horticulture
12.10 pm	Treasury and the ACCC	11.25 am	Ai Group
12.55 pm	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	12.10 pm	Professor Sinclair, Deakin University
13.35 pm	<i>Adjournment</i>	12.40 pm	Palm Oil Action Group
		1.10 pm	Australian Orang-utan Project
		13.40 pm	<i>Adjournment</i>

**For media comment:** Please contact the Committee Chair Craig Thomson MP:

Electorate: (02) 4351 1223

Parliament: (02) 6277 4460

**For background information:** Please contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4209 Email: [economics.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.reps@aph.gov.au) Website: [www.aph.gov.au/economics](http://www.aph.gov.au/economics)