

SUBMISSION 8

15 August 2011

GWF / George Weston
Foods Limited

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
economics.reps@aph.gov.au

RE: IMPACTS OF A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT TO THE *TRUTH IN LABELLING* - PALM OIL BILL

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to seek your urgent assistance in relation to the *Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil* Bill, as we understand the Bill was referred to the House of Representatives Economics Standing Committee for further consideration.

George Weston Foods Limited (GWF) acknowledges and respects community and consumer concerns with respect to the environmental and social impacts of palm oil and palm kernel oil production. We currently use a small quantity of palm oil and palm oil derivatives in some of our baked products as an alternative to hydrogenated fat, which we have removed for nutritional reasons.

GWF has made a group wide commitment that all of our businesses will use certified sustainable palm oil in the manufacture of our products by 2015, provided that regional supply is available. We will be working with our suppliers to achieve this goal.

Currently, all palm oil and palm oil derivatives used in the manufacture of products supplied to GWF are sourced from suppliers who have been admitted as a Member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and adhere to the RSPO standards. This ensures the use of palm oil is managed in a sustainable manner based on economic, social and environmental viability.

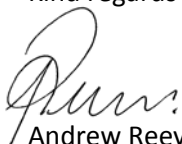
As GWF is already moving towards buying and supporting the use of sustainable palm oil certified by the RSPO, we are concerned about this Bill for the following two main reasons:

- The introduction of this Bill will impose significant costs to our business and industry and undermines good regulation and labelling process – for example; compromising the current Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Blewett Labelling Review process and normal review process (RIS)
- The proposed Bill circumvents the Commonwealth, State and Territory processes of food labelling standard setting which have the objectives of protecting public health and safety and provision of information for informed choice.

GWF urges you to seriously consider the consequences of this legislation on Australia's food and grocery manufacturing industry and oppose the Palm Oil Bill (Food Standards Amendment Truth in Labelling).

Your support in relation to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards



Andrew Reeves,
Chief Executive, George Weston Foods Limited