

Dear Senator Xenophon, Senator Brown and Senator Joyce,

As an Australian Citizen, who is vegetarian, I believe in the right of all Australians to make a choice. I do not believe in enforced vegetarianism, nor do I believe in enforced cruelty to the welfare of all animals around the globe.

When I purchase a product, I examine it carefully for the sources of its ingredients. Is the product tested on animals, does it contain any animal products or by products, does it contain palm oil? As a vegetarian, and a believer in that all living, neurologically active beings are entitled to a life free of pain or destruction, I find it disturbing that I, an Australian citizen, cannot, for the most part, choose to protect animals due to the lack of labeling on products that contain 'vegetable oils'.

If products containing Palm Oil were appropriately labeled, I could choose to not purchase that product, and fellow Australians who do not share the same passion for the welfare of animals, could choose to purchase that product. As it stands, for the most part, I do not have a choice. The cost of labeling would not be any further burden on national businesses, but the cost of not labeling is the destruction of the environments of orangutans in Asia. That cost may not immediately be apparent, but in years to come, as the species is made extinct, the cost will be known, around the globe.

I strongly encourage a Bill to be passed that enforces labeling of the source of 'vegetable' oil, in the interests of not only the animals so severely affected, but also in the interests of all Australian citizens.

Regards,

Alison Richardson