

Good Morning

I wish to make a submission in support of the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

I support the mandatory labeling of palm oil as I believe the usage of palm oil in many products currently for sale in our stores in Australia has a direct impact on rainforests clearing in Indonesia. It is well documented that forest clearing and burning is leading to a decline in numbers of orangatans as the forests being cleared are the natural habitat of the orangatan. The threat of extinction of the orangatan is increasing as our consumption of palm oil continues.

If labeling of palm oil were mandatory it would mean consumers could make an informed choice when purchasing items containing palm oil, and vote with their money.

If this bill leads to more informed purchasing choices and therefore a reduction in sales of the palm oil products (and company profits) manufacturers will have no option but to find an alternative to palm oil.

Until such time as mandatory labeling is enforced manufacturers will continue to use palm oil as it is the cheaper option and increases their profits.

Regards

Jackie Strike