

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN - Re: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

A few facts:-

- \* We share 97% of our DNA with Orang-utans
- \* Palm Oil typically costs the lives of up to 50 Orang-utans each week.
- \* Over 85% of the worlds palm oil comes from Malaysia and Indonesia.
- \* In SE Asia alone, the equivalent of 300 football fields are deforested every hour for palm oil production
- \* There are 3,200 tigers left in the world, the Sumatran being the most endangered. It is found only in Indonesia, and is facing extinction because of loss of their rainforest home, cleared to produce palm oil.

'Transparency' seems to be a catchword in political speak, but there seems to be no transparency in food labelling. As a voter and consumer, I need to know what I am buying and consuming. It has been brought to my attention that we, the consumers and voters of Australia, are not given the full facts. We wish to remain in control of products and services we purchase, and clearly control has been taken out of our hands in this case. Transparency and Truth are what we vote for.

More and more people in this world are becoming aware of just what impact human existence is having upon our earth and all those who inhabit it - that is all animals and plants, indeed everything which contributes to the biostructure which enables us to live and survive. Many of us are taking whatever steps we can to lessen any detrimental impact we create, but we need information to help us in this task. What can be done to assist in this growing awareness and desire to lessen the degradation we are causing. Every action helps, whether large or small.

I consider it a major action when government provides me with sufficient information to make my decisions.

We trust you will make the right decision.

Regards,

Jane M Otto