

RE: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

To the Committee

I am a consumer one that cares about what I feed my family. The Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009 will allow me to make a choice on what I feed my family. At the moment palm oil is labelled more often than not under vegetable oil. This is misleading to us the consumers. Palm oil is in forty per cent of the products on our supermarket shelves. I have the right to make an educated choice on what I feed my family and I cannot do that if palm oil is not labelled correctly.

The other reason for this submission is the devastation that the growing of palm oil is having on our environment and the wildlife in that environment. It brings me to tears the plight of the Orangutans. More than a thousand orangutans die each year because of their habitat being destroyed for palm oil. They say the orangutan in the wild will be extinct by 2015. I would not of thought such a thing was possible in my life time. The saying goes Ignorance is bliss but as someone who was ignorant of this situation until recently it is not bliss. My wish is that we had been so well informed thirty years ago so we could have stopped the devastation then. I tell the children I work with constantly that we can make a difference all you have to do is be pro active. Finally today I can say I am living that talk. I want the right to choose what I will choose the right to help others save our future. I believe by labelling palm oil that we can help stop the deforestation of the homes of these magnificent creatures not to mention all the little ones we don't hear about or see that are affected by this devastation.

I hope you will consider my submission and that collectively as a group you are the ones to start to make a difference in our very precious existence.

Thankyou kindly

Tracey Hutchins