

Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

The following are my personal reasons for supporting the mandatory labeling of Palm Oil

The amount of personal free time and money that I and many, many others have spent volunteering, educating and raising funds over the last 10 years, is *surely* an indication of how the public feel about the shocking destruction of ecosystems throughout our neighboring countries, Malaysia and Indonesia.

To see an advert on prime time TV such as the current HIS promotion for the welfare of Orangutans, wells much emotion from me every time I see it. They are *incredibly gentle creatures* with the intelligence of a 5 year old child. You can see this in their eyes. The females keep returning to their destroyed home as a natural instinct, which inevitably means the violent death of a pest. *We are supporting this!*

The Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil appears to be a ‘farce’, put in place to cover for huge buyers of Palm Oil and the local Government. As far as I am aware, there is no such thing as SUSTAINABLE palm oil. After two plantations the African palm destructively leeches into the soil, removing all nutrients leaving it barren. *How will the local farmers survive in the long run?*

Knowing that our infants are being fed formula from the supermarket which contains the HIDDEN saturated fat Palm Oil infuriates me - this ingredient is *extremely* bad for us, confirmed by the National Heart Foundation.

Feeling frustrated and completely let down as a consumer, that I have no right to know what my family and friends are really eating each day and that **my** Government is willing to let this continue, while the Supermarkets make more and more fat profits.

The more information I gain the more frustrated I get. Do we really want to lose wild Orangutans, Tigers, Rhino’s and Elephants in our Generation? Because this is what is going to happen if important changes such as this Proposed Bill are not made. What will everyone say to their children?

The West needs to clean up its act – we really should know better. More leading and less following Australia!

I have attached some reference information which I have personally made up to support this cause including:

- Business cards for consumers to review (when shopping) the endless list of possible palm oil names
- Handout fact sheet for easy read about what the Orangutan (and friends) are facing

Regards,

Laura Surfield