

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

I'd like to urge that the proposal be adopted to have 'Palm Oil' labelled as an ingredient for all food items sold in Australia.

As we are aware, the demand for Palm Oil continues to increase, and precious habitats are being lost to make way for Palm Oil plantations.

The loss of habitats shall mean that many critically endangered species are likely to reach the tipping point and shall be lost forever from this planet. Imagine a world without tigers, elephants, orang-utans, hornbills, Sun Bears and countless other species.

It is likely that the deforestation shall move closer to Australia to the island of New Guinea, and perhaps increase global warming and see forest fires that will impact upon air quality in Australia.

By taking this important step shall further increase community awareness of the impacts that demand for Palm Oil is having on our planet.

My support of this bill both stems from personal values and professional activities. Clearly I am keen to see the forests of South-east Asia and other regions protected. There are alternatives that will provide local communities with resources to survive. And, working at Melbourne Zoo, of course I have been exposed to the 'Don't Palm us Off Campaign'.

It has also been suggested that Palm Oil may present some health issues, and that other types of vegetable oil are preferable for our diets.

As consumers, we should have the right to know the ingredients contained in the food items that we purchase and choose to consume. We should be entitled to make informed decisions regarding the ethics and any health issues associated with food items. By having mandatory labelling of palm oil will deliver this outcome, and also contribute to the survival of threatened species.

Kind Regards

Amanda Embury