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

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to you as concerned citizens, who have an interest in the wildlife for which we take responsibility for the care. Research has shown that the Palm-Oil industry is having a major detrimental affect on the fragile eco-systems that are the environs of the Orang-utan.

It has been bought to our attention that many of the products that are found on our local supermarket shelves contain a product called Palm Oil.

It is our belief that all Australians should have the right to choose whether their purchases will contribute to the loss of an eco-system and species such as the Orang-utan. Labelling palm-oil products will help show which food manufacturers are not purchasing ethical sources of palm –oil. With the ultimate affect that labelling products will drive a market for a sustainable palm-oil industry that considers the needs of people and wildlife.

We would like to exercise our rights to choose to, or choose not to purchase these items, however, it seems that Palm Oil does not require the specific labelling as do many other ingredients in products, but can be guised under the name vegetable oil. The label vegetable oil does not give an accurate indication of the product or its nutritional value.

Palm Oil should be labelled accurately so that we have enough information, to make an informed decision on our purchases.

Regards,

Sally Lewis
Director