

ZOOS VICTORIA'S SUBMISSION TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Inquiry into the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling Laws) Bill 2009

FROM THE COMEDIANS OF AUSTRALIA

Thank you for considering this submission on the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling Laws) Bill 2009.

We want to know whether the food we buy is fuelling an environmental crisis in South East Asia. Australia's food labeling laws are preventing us from making an informed choice, but shouldn't every single Australian have the right to know what is in our food?

Here's what we do know: that loss of virgin rainforest to make way for the production of palm oil accounts for the death of more than 50 orang-utans a week.¹ Rainforest is destroyed at a rate equivalent to 300 soccer fields every hour to make way for palm oil plantations.²

The destruction is only going to get worse. By 2020, Indonesia's oil palm plantations are projected to triple in size to 16.5 million hectares – an area the size of England and Wales combined.³

And we have absolutely no idea if we are contributing to this environmental crisis, **because it's not compulsory to label palm oil in our food products.**

We are prepared to send a delegation to appear before the Senate Committee on Community Affairs.

Signed:

Wil Anderson
Judith Lucy
Frank Woodley
Peter Helliard

¹ Friends of the Earth Position Paper August 2006, *The use of palm oil for biofuel and as biomass for energy* http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/palm_oil_biofuel_position.pdf

² Friends of the Earth Position Paper August 2006, *The use of palm oil for biofuel and as biomass for energy* http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/palm_oil_biofuel_position.pdf

³ Friends of the Earth Position Paper August 2006, *The use of palm oil for biofuel and as biomass for energy* http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/palm_oil_biofuel_position.pdf

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