

20/4/2010

For the Senate Committee of Community Affairs,

Subject: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2009

Most of the palm oil that ends up in our food is unsustainably harvested. In fact, only eight percent of the global supply of palm oil comes from sustainable RSPO certified sources. A sustainable palm oil industry that does not destroy anymore virgin rainforest is a reality. The industry just needs to use land that has already been cleared. But right now there isn't the demand for palm oil that is produced this way.

I believe that we have a right to know whether the products we buy contain palm oil. However without legislation change, palm oil will remain unlabelled and we just won't know if the food products we are buying are pushing orangutans to extinction.

Some Facts:

- Palm oil is found about 40 percent of the food products on our shelves and its rampant cultivation is destroying the Orangutan's habitat at an alarming rate.
- The United Nations has warned that Orangutans could be extinct within a generation if we don't act quickly.
- Once palm oil is labelled, consumers can actually drive a market for proper certified sustainable palm oil because they can demand it of manufacturers.

Therefore, I support the call for mandatory labelling of palm oil.

Yours Sincerely,
Gary Fredrickson.