

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing in relation to the "Food Standards Amendment" (Truth in Labeling-Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

I wish to support the Amendment bill ("Truth in Labelling") of Palm Oil for the following reasons:

- I believe all consumers should have the right to accurate and truthful information regarding food products available in Australian so as to make an informed choice when purchasing food products.
- The impact of the Palm Oil Industry in South East Asia is undeniable. Rural communities and endangered species such as Orangutans are directly impacted by palm oil production. It is time for Australia to act responsibly. By labelling Palm Oil, consumers will be able to make an ethical choice. Those who care about this issue will no longer unknowingly, contribute to the destruction of South East Asian rainforests.
- Misleading and inaccurate labelling of palm oil as "vegetable oil" should no longer be tolerated.
- As an obese nation, Palm oil should be avoided were possible due to it's high saturated fat content. Correct labelling is essential for those wishing to avoid products with high fat content.

I am an active volunteer with the Palm Oil Action Group (www.palmoilaction.org.au) and have in the past coordinated several events to assist in raising awareness of the impacts of the Palm oil industry. We have had several wins (not for us but for the environment) having persuaded Woolworths and KFC to switch from Palm Oil to a more healthy/environmentally friendly vegetable oil (canola/sunflower). We have lobbied for several years now to have compulsory labelling of Palm oil so that members of the public can make an ethical choice when visiting their local supermarkets.

There is a wealth of information regarding the Palm Oil industry and it's effects. Having researched the issue for several years, I would be more than willing to share with the committee in person a detailed report of the environment effects of the palm oil industry and why it is so crucial that we take responsibility before it is too late. I share with you some photos that illustrate the effects of the palm oil industry.

I thank you sincerely for your consideration and time.

Yours faithfully,

Chitra Allen