

I wish to make a submission to the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2009

As a mother of three and active consumer trying to live as ethically and environmentally sensitively as possible, the current lack of labeling in respect of Palm Oil in food products is denying me the right to make informed purchases.

Without labelling of palm oil in food products I am prevented from avoiding purchasing items that contain palm oil that is not certified as having been sustainably produced and therefore am left in the position of inadvertently contributing to the destruction of rainforests and the wildlife within them. Many species are at risk due to unsustainable palm oil production and orangutans in particular are at immediate risk of extinction if palm oil production practices are not changed immediately.

If palm oil in food products available in Australia is clearly labelled it will give me the capacity to make more informed food selection choices and help prevent me inadvertently contributing to the destruction of wildlife and the habitat that supports them. I am well aware that many of my friends and family feel the same way and we want to be able to make the choice to select food products that align with our ethical and environmental point of view and ensure we leave a world fit for our children and grandchildren to grow up in.

I believe the labelling of palm oil in food products will lead to a demand for more sustainable palm oil practices that will ultimately help protect the environment and many endangered species.

As a matter of urgency I request that an amendment is made to Food Standards to require compulsory labelling of palm oil in food products.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further if that would assist the implementation of these changes.

Yours sincerely

Katie Pahlow