

I write to support the mandatory labeling of Palm Oil (Food Standards Amendment -Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

In my professional capacity as the General Manager of Commercial Development at Zoos Victoria, I oversee retail and catering operations across Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo. We operate ten permanent food outlets, seven retail stores and hundreds functions and events each year that cater to our 1.5 million visitors.

The Commercial Development team at Zoos Victoria is responsible for aligning our business plans with the vision and values of our organisation. Currently our catering operators and retail buyers can not confidently purchase food products that do not contain palm oil. This is unacceptable and we urge you to make the labeling of palm oil in food mandatory.

We believe our considerable purchasing power thru our retail and catering operations can drive a market for proper certified sustainable palm oil. Please give us the power to influence our suppliers and business partners.

Yours sincerely
Robyn Grattidge