

Submission for - Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

Hi, my name is Alana, and I have been made aware of the Palm Oil Bill (Or whatever it's called) by many sources; the media (TV, newspaper and radio); via email; by family members; school mates ect...

I have decided to send in this letter because I believe it is important that the Government or whoever is involved in the making of this bill are aware that the public supports the bill indefinitely.

Through evolution, humans have become the dominant species of Earth. This means we have power over almost, if not all other creatures. Unfortunately, as could have easily been predicted, we have abused this power and through our desires for palm oil have destroyed millions of precious trees, homes of animals and put our own orangutans in danger – not just walking across the road without looking danger, but throwing yourself in front of a freight train danger. This has disgusted the public, as I am sure you are well aware.

No, we cannot take back time and save all the innocent monkey lives that have been lost, but we can prevent it from happening in the future. The government (or whoever) have the power to change this. The public – basically everyone in the world – have NOT been aware of this until recently, and it has caused outrage and shock. (People still obviously believe they know everything)

Let me assure you, the palm oil business is going to start plummeting down financially soon, if it has not already. People are not happy with the situation. I myself come from a family (all four sides) who are environmentally aware and involved (very heavily) with zoos and aquariums and animal charities across Australia.

I am sure, almost certain, you have read hundreds of letters telling you about how many orangutans have been killed by deforestation, bulldozers that cause this, fires that are the aftermath, and helpless survivors that are viciously murdered by money-seeking criminals. You would also know by now how intelligent orangutans are, how they share 97% of human dna and how they have feelings - like pain, anxiety, grief and love. Yes, you probably already know this and have read it in many different words, fonts and ways, by many different people. And if I am right, (which I think I am – I'm thirteen,) the Australian government, the voice of our nation – small but successful and one of which to be proud of, should know by now that it is plain wrong and disturbing what is happening.

The bill that I long to be passed, is one that the public support, will embrace, and benefit from. It's quite simply really – tell us what companies are murdering amazing creatures heartlessly. That's it. What more is there to it? We want to know. And we will know I'm almost certain of it. I mean, what kind of government, or people – Australians especially – would not allow this? And you know what will happen? Other countries will follow. And in the end,

perhaps one person will not buy a product that contains palm oil, and perhaps one tree will not be cut down, and perhaps one orangutan will be saved. And that orangutan could have easily been born a human, one that could have had a mother, a father, a child, a sister, a brother or a friend, and it could've been you. Or it could've been that precious child you kiss goodnight, or your best friend or the guy who saved you from a crazy physco that time when you were sixteen. If you think about it, we are all just another creature with feelings, and a home and a soul, and for some sick reason our fellow creatures, with souls themselves, are being killed for the vegetable oil in our freshly renovated kitchen. Yes we have *iPhones*, but what's the point if we can't honestly go to bed at night knowing we do the right thing by the world, the environment, the wildlife and our fellow creatures?

In conclusion, I have sent this letter to whoever will receive it, in the hope that it might make a slight bit of difference in one persons attitude towards the situation, and maybe highlight the fact that (if the above arguments aren't good enough for you), it would be a stupid thing to do by the public to not pass the Palm Oil Bill. Whoever reads this (and I hope that someone does,) please encourage the bill, and help save the orangutans.

Thankyou for reading this,
Alana.