

**Submission against the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling- Palm Oil) Bill 2009**

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

I have two major concerns about Palm oil usage in our food and the lack of information available about palm oil in food labelling.

Palm oil is one of the few vegetable oils that does not have health benefits. It is in about half of all processed foods but the general public is unaware of this as palm oil is listed as vegetable oil in Australian labelling. I consider myself reasonably health-conscious and I want to be able to make an informed decision on what I eat.

I am also very concerned about the destruction of our rainforests to make way for Palm oil plantations. World demand for palm oil has increased dramatically and this has resulted in massive destruction of natural forests. In a time of concern about global warming and the future of the sustainability of life on this planet as we know it, we need to take a stand against this destruction. We can take positive action to prevent the extinction of animal species through destruction of their natural habitat by reducing our use of products containing palm oil.

Palm oil must be listed separately on all food labelling so that Australians can make a choice that will have a positive effect on their health and the state of the planet that we leave for our children and grandchildren. We have a responsibility to future generations to take care of our planet and ensure that we are not destroying animal species through ignorance and neglect.

Please have mandatory listing of Palm oil on all Australian labelling.

Colleen Orchard