

Ryan Bath

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the Inquiry into Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

When I hear statistics like 50 orang-utans are dying each week because of the palm oil industry, it makes me realise that something needs to be done, and soon. Although orang-utans are one of the highest profile animals being affected by this industry, we also need to think about the rich biodiversity, the many other plants and animals being devastated when clearing happens to the extent it currently is. Biodiversity is important for the survival of all living things, including humans. Without it we are nothing, yet we are the ones rapidly destroying it.

We need to introduce the mandatory labelling of palm oil as soon as possible. Currently almost every Australian is contributing to the loss of unique un-spoilt rainforest, its animals, and the communities of local people who call this land home. We don't have a choice as to whether we contribute to the destruction. Every consumer has the right to know what they are really buying and they have the right to choose whether they contribute to the destruction of precious biodiversity.

Mandatory labelling will grant people their right to choose. It will expose manufacturers who are using non-sustainable palm oil and create a consumer driven demand for certified sustainable palm oil.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Bath

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