

05 April 2010

Community Affairs Committee
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To Whom It May Concern

RE: Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

I write this submission from the perspective of an everyday consumer and concerned animal rights citizen of Australia.

The addition of palm oil in a any product should be mandatorily labelled clearly as ‘palm oil’ and not hidden under the guise of other names which are not clear to the everyday consumer.

I understand that the production of palm oil will not cease and that it is a billion dollar industry for some countries. However, the Australian public should at least be given the opportunity to decide whether they will purchase products that contain this ingredient.

From an animal rights perspective we as the human race should not be responsible for the destruction and extinction of other species on this planet. There is no reason why palm oil cannot be produced in sustainable forests without the destruction of other species habitats. Without realising it the Australian public is contributing to this extinction by blindly purchasing products that could easily be substituted for another similar product if the necessary information was provided.

It is with great hope that I anticipate that the committee will make the right decision and give the Australian public the opportunity to decide for themselves.

Yours sincerely,
Eleisha Hickey