

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission in support of the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling - Palm Oil) 2009.

I support the mandatory labeling of palm oil for the following reasons:

- I want to be able to make an informed choice at the shops so I can choose against supporting companies that drive threatening processes that endanger wildlife and wild places.
- I believe that Australia needs to take a stand to drive the market for sustainable palm oil.
- I want to support the future of wild populations of Orangutans before it is too late.
- Having seen footage of the destruction, deforestation and palm oil plantations throughout Indonesia I believe that if something is not done soon about these processes, the biodiversity of flora and fauna as well as the native communities of these areas will be completely and irreversibly devastated. This will be driven by the unknowing consumer of the western world unless we are able to make the choice.
- Having worked in remote areas of Papua New Guinea and seen first hand the rain-forest environment that supports abundant biodiversity, I am concerned about the devastation palm oil plantations is already having on habitats there. I fear for the people who live in the areas it is affecting. Many of these people have low education levels and easy sell their land to large off shore investors without being aware of the consequences of their actions. Having driven a sustainable market for palm oil in Australia, this will hopefully help the people and habitats in areas like Papua New Guinea that are clearly the next areas to fall under the hand of Palm Oil.
- If Australia can take action on this issue we will be setting a positive example for other countries to follow suit and help reduce the world's unsustainable consumption of palm oil.
- Australia needs to be a leader in this space and advocate for sustainability in all areas of environmental concern especially where links to deforestation and climate change can be drawn.

I am willing to give evidence before a Senate Committee hearing in Canberra to support my submission.

Thank you for your time in reading this submission.

Regards,

Michelle Cooper