

Hello,

I realise this is a few days late, but am hoping you will consider my submission.

I write to express my support for the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling Palm Oil) Bill 2009. I ask that it goes further and requires mandatory labelling of all products - food, toiletries, whatever - that contain palm oil.

Destruction of habitat to create palm oil plantations is the main threatening process for a number of threatened species. The leading cause of habitat destruction is the creation of palm oil plantations. Palm oil plantations also adversely impact on human communities. With a predicted increase in palm oil use, the environmental and societal harm will only increase in coming years.

I do not wish to support industries and companies that are contributing to unnecessary environmental and societal harm. I particularly don't want to support companies that are contributing to the extinction of entire species.

Unless I, and any other Australian, contact every single manufacturer of every product I purchase, it is not possible for me to know the type of vegetable oil being used.

I therefore ask that new legislation is introduced requiring that the type of vegetable oil in all products is specified on the label. Companies that are endeavouring to reduce their environmental and social impact by using only certified sustainable palm oil can gain a marketing edge by labelling it as such. It is a win-win proposal which will reward companies who are implementing sustainable practices and highlight those who aren't.

If you wish to reply to this email, I would appreciate you doing so by email, rather than post, to reduce global warming and waste.

Yours sincerely,

Lee O'Mahoney