

To Whom it may concern,

I was very troubled tonight hearing about the plight of the south east asian Orang-utans on the "7pm Project" (Channel 10) and knowing that as a consumer I can not even make an informed decision to do my part in saving their habitat. The Orang-utans are a very special species of animal and if we do nothing than we are risk of loosing them forever in the wild. Just beause Orang-utans are not an Australian native species does not mean that they are any less valuable to the world animal population. Please pass this bill for mandatory food labeling and allow Australians to make informed decisions about the products that they consume. All of the below points listed for consideration by the committee are correct and not only point out that misleading consumers is hurthing the Orang-utans but also the people consuming this palm oil products.

1. The rights of consumers to be provided with accurate and truthful information to enable them to make an informed choice about the food products they are eating and purchasing;
2. That allowing palm oil to be listed as "vegetable oil" on food packaging is misleading to consumers;
3. That palm oil is considered high in saturated fats and consumers should be made aware if it is used in foods they are eating for health reasons;
4. That the impact of palm oil production on wildlife, specifically Orang-utan's in South East Asia is significant unless it is done sustainably;
5. That sustainable palm oil can be produced with low impact on the environment and wildlife and with better labour laws on plantations; and
6. That manufacturers should be encouraged to use sustainable palm oil in their production process and can subsequently use the status of "Certified Sustainable Palm Oil" as a business benefit.

Thankyou for your time and I implore you to do what you can to allow consumes make informed choices and help the Orang-utans.

Debbie Anstis