

05 April 2010

Melissa Grimes

To: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Submission on Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009

I refer to the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009 (the Bill). In relation to the Bill please be advised that I support the mandatory labelling of palm oil for the following reasons:

- Consumers should have the right to choose, information transparency is deserved.
- Consumers deserve to be able to “vote with their dollars”; this is an issue of consumer empowerment.
- Product manufacturers who refrain from using palm oil should be afforded a competitive market advantage.
- Once palm oil is labelled, consumers can actually drive a market for proper certified sustainable palm oil because this will better enable them to demand it of manufacturers.
- Palm oil is found in a significant proportion of food products and as such the cumulative impact of their sustainable (or un-sustainable) use is significant.
- It has been reported that palm oil cultivation is destroying Orangutan habitat at a significant rate. Ecological destruction should be mitigated or better, reversed.
- The intrinsic value of Orangutan habitat should be protected if justice is to be achieved.
- Orangutans are at risk; this animal rights issue should not go on unabated.
- The intrinsic value of Orangutans should be protected if justice is to be achieved.
- Orangutans could become extinct; this is a matter of inter-generational equity. We owe it to future human generations.

I advise that I would not like to appear to give evidence before a Senate Committee hearing.

Regards

Melissa Grimes