

## **Submission**

### **Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009**

**Heather McLetchie**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a consumer I support the mandatory labeling of palm oil on food products.

I would like the right to make informed choices about the food I buy and currently allowing the food industry to effectively hide palm oil under the misleading ingredient “vegetable oil” completely prevents me from making a choice I believe I have the right to make.

“The impact of palm oil production on wildlife, specifically Orang-utan's in South East Asia is significant unless it is done sustainably” this is of the great concern to me. Legislating for mandatory labeling of palm oil will allow me choices which may contribute to preventing the extinction of a species.

Consumers have the potential to influence manufacturers attitudes and processes in a huge way (for example “dolphin friendly tuna”), but in order to do this we must be given the information to start making those choices.

I fully support all the principle issues for consideration by the committee and think that the “Certified Sustainable Palm Oil” is a fantastic idea which will definitely be of business benefit to those companies who embrace the idea.

Please allow me and other consumers to make this important decision by legislating for the mandatory labeling of palm oil on food products.

Yours sincerely

Heather McLetchie