

Submission in support of the (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

I believe that it is vitally important and imperative that this Bill be passed. As consumers, how are we able to make informed decisions about our purchases if we do not have all the facts? We are constantly told to read the label but if the information on the label is inaccurate or misleading then it serves no purpose.

One of the most powerful statements, as a country, that we can make to our politicians and to retailers is with our feet. If we are given the full and correct information we can then choose to purchase or not to purchase.

The fact that our consumer way of life is threatening another species' existence is deplorable. As humans we have stewardship of the Earth; however that doesn't mean we have the right to wipe another species off the planet simply because they get in the way of something we want. In fact, having stewardship is the exact opposite. It is our responsibility to maintain and look after the planet and all things within it. It is our responsibility to see that every creature's lifestyle is preserved, not just our own.

In looking into this issue the one point that stuck in my mind was that in all possibility my son (now 14 months old) may only be able to look at and view this magnificent animal in the pages of a history book, and that thought makes me sadder than I can say. All because we want slightly cheaper groceries or are simply ignorant of the true cost of what we are purchasing.

My interest is more personal as I spent several years living in the jungles of Malaysia.

It is our moral and ethical duty as stewards of earth to see that the devastation and destruction stops now, and to ensure the continual survival, in the wild, of this magnificent and majestic creature. To make sure that our children and our children's children have more than just a picture in a book.

Anna Polson