

Mrs Kylie Emmerton

Senate Committee of Community Affairs

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6th APRIL 2010

Dear Senate Committee of Community Affairs,

RE: INQUIRY INTO FOOD STANDARDS AMENDMENT BILL 2009

I am writing as I am very concerned about the use of palm oil because of the serious environmental consequences associated with new palm oil plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia where primary rainforest is being cleared destroying the habitat of highly endangered species, especially Orangutans. Papua New Guinea ecosystems and communities are also threatened by oil palm plantation development.

I also would like to be able to make a conscious health choice by knowing what is in the foods I am consuming. I currently have high cholesterol and have been advised to limit saturated fat from my diet, I understand that palm oil is high in saturated fat but this could currently be miss leading as it can be labelled as a vegetable oil (non-saturated fat). It is of concern that often I do not know if I am consuming palm oil because it may be labelled only as vegetable oil.

I strongly believe palm oil should be labelled as such because, in direct relation to the above points:

- Protecting my own health and safety in knowing that I am consuming an oil high in saturated fat.
- Current labelling is inadequate, labelling palm oil as vegetable oil is misleading.
- Consumers should be given the information to make clear choices about purchasing products that are damaging ecosystems and threatening highly endangered species, particularly Orangutans.

Please urgently address the issue of clear, non-misleading labelling of palm oil.

Yours Sincerely

Kylie Emmerton