



AUSTRALIAN SENATE  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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

On 26 November 2009 the Senate, on the recommendation of the Selection of Bills Committee, referred the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) 2009 [introduced by Senators Xenophon, Bob Brown and Joyce] to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 31 August 2010. The Bill will amend product information standards to provide for the accurate labelling of palm oil in food. The principal issues for consideration by the Committee are:

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.

The Bill may be accessed via the link: [Legislation and documentation relating to the Bill](#)

The Committee invites you to provide a written submission addressing issues that may be of relevance to you. The submission should be lodged by 24 April 2010. The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document – email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au) – otherwise by fax (02 6277 5829).

Submissions become Committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the Committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and their being available to other interested parties including the media. Persons making submissions must not release them without the approval of the Committee. Submissions are covered by parliamentary privilege but the unauthorised release of them is not protected. Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the Internet at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit\\_sub/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm)

Should you require further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 3515.

Enquiries from hearing and speech impaired people should be directed to Parliament House TTY number 02 6277 7799. Adobe also provides tools at <http://access.adobe.com/> for the blind and visually impaired to access PDF documents. If you require any special arrangements to enable you to participate in the Committee's inquiry, please contact the Secretariat.