
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Advisory report on the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling—Palm Oil) Bill 2011

House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Economics

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Foreword

Julie Owens MP
Chair



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Membership of the Committee

Chair	Ms Julie Owens MP
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Terms of reference

On 7 July 2011, the Selection Committee asked the Committee to inquire into and report on the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2011.

Under Standing Order 222(e), the House is taken to have adopted the Selection Committee's reports when they are presented.



List of abbreviations

ACL	Australian Consumer Law
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
FSANZ	Food Standards Australia New Zealand
IFC	International Finance Corporation
MINCO	Australian and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council
WTO	World Trade Organisation



Recommendation

Recommendation 1

The House of Representatives should not pass the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling-Palm Oil) Bill 2010 because the legislation is flawed and would result in a range of unintended consequences. The House should note that an alternative and superior approach to addressing palm oil labelling is already under way.

On 9 December 2011 the Australian and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council will consider a whole-of-government response to the Report, *Labelling Logic: Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy*.

Recommendation 12 of this reports states:

- That where sugars, fats or vegetable oils are added as separate ingredients in a food, the terms ‘added sugars’ and ‘added fats’ and/or ‘added vegetable oils’ be used in the ingredient list as the generic term, followed by a bracketed list (e.g., added sugars (fructose, glucose syrup, honey), added fats (palm oil, milk fat) or added vegetable oils (sunflower oil, palm oil)).

The committee supports the implementation of recommendation 12 of the report and encourages the Ministerial Council to deal with this recommendation expeditiously.