

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support of the Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil Bill and to strongly encourage members of the senate to vote in favour of its instatement. We as Australian citizens and members of a democratic society have the right to be informed about the ingredients of food which we consume. Companies which manufacture or sell their food and beverage products in Australia should be legally obligated to accurately list all ingredients that they contain.

Australians have the right to knowledge that will allow them to make informed choices about the products that they purchase. Presently there are clear labels on packaging which states whether or not a product contains potential allergens such as peanuts or milk products, whether a product contains wholly Australian ingredients or some/wholly imported ingredients and the nutritional break down of a product. We deserve the right to also be informed whether our foods and beverages contain ingredients which in their production, growing or harvesting have a detrimental effect on the environment or on other species.

A prime example of this is palm oil. It is a fact that much of the world's palm oil that ends up in food products is derived from plantations which have been cultivated on land that has been cleared of native forest specifically for this purpose. The forest being cleared in South-East Asia for the production of products such as palm oil are important to us humans because they produce oxygen, sequester carbon dioxide and contribute to rainfall through transpiration. These forests also provide habitat and food for endangered species such as orangutans, elephants and tigers. Companies should be made to clearly state in their product's ingredients list whether their product contains palm oil and not to simply state the product contains vegetable oil or fat which could refer to a whole range of ingredients. We as Australian's should have the right to know what ingredients are in the products we purchase and whether they contain products which have been produced through unsustainable practices. To ensure Australians have the opportunity to choose products which contain ingredients produced through sustainable agriculture companies should list the particular ingredients as being produced through sustainable methods.

Please vote in favour the Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil Bill and show your support for our democratic right as Australians to be well informed about the ingredients the products we purchase contain and which products contain ingredients such as palm oil produced through unsustainable practices that are detrimental to the environment and other species.

Thanking you,

Lisa Nink