

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Thanks you for the opportunity to put forward a submission to the draft legislation - Truth in Labelling (Palm Oil) Bill.

The reason why I am putting forward a submission is because I am a very concerned consumer.

I like to read the ingredients panel on my food. It's not an obsession, I just want to know what is in my food.

Quite often I see the terms 'vegetable oil' or 'vegetable fat'. These terms might seem innocuous enough, but to me they are warning signs. They say I could have palm oil in me, and that palm oil may or may not be from a sustainable source.

For me, palm oil is synonymous with the habitat destruction that is killing the Orang-utan. For some reason I am denied the right to know if it is in my food. As a consumer, this is unacceptable.

I know there is an alternative way of producing palm oil that is not as environmentally or even socially damaging. It's called Certified Sustainable Palm Oil. I believe this could be a viable alternative. The problem is, how can I ask for it if I don't even know what food contains palm oil?

As a concerned consumer, I am asking you to please legislate for the mandatory labelling of palm oil because I want to know if palm oil is in my food. You have the power to give all Australian consumers this right.

Your sincerely,

Jacquie O'Brien