



## **MR JASON WOOD MP**

Federal Member for La Trobe

## **SENATOR NICK XENOPHON**

Senator for South Australia

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **PALM OIL PETITION PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT**

The voices of more than 100,000 Australians have been heard in Canberra today when a special envoy from Victoria delivered a petition in support of stronger labelling laws for palm oil to Federal Member for La Trobe, Jason Wood MP, South Australian Senator, Nick Xenophon MP and Federal Member for Chisholm, Julia Banks MP.

Palm oil is found in more than 50% of manufactured items in supermarkets, including food, cleaning products, and cosmetics, but currently food manufacturers can hide palm oil under the generic term of 'vegetable oil'.

Palm Oil production is also one of the greatest contributors to the destruction of Orang-utan habitats and is heavily effecting Orang-utan populations.

Zoos Victoria CEO Dr Jenny Gray and, Zoos Victoria Director of Wildlife Conservation and Science, Rachel Lowry and 8 year old Zoo Member, Luke Eaton presented the petition to support clear labelling of palm oil on Australian products to the politicians on the steps of Parliament House in Canberra.

Palm oil also contains a high proportion of saturated fat. Leading health experts and organisations such as the World Health Organisation and Heart Foundation recommend limiting the intake of saturated fats.

"We know that most Australians support labelling of vegetable oils, including palm oil. It's time we stepped up and made this a reality,

"I'll be presenting a Private Members Motion in the House of Representatives soon to support this push,

"I'm happy to see that Senator Nick Xenophon is on board with this issue, particularly given he raised the issue in the Senate some time ago as well" said Mr. Wood

On November 25, a council of State, Territory and Federal Ministers will meet to vote on improved labelling of vegetable oils, including palm oil.

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