

I, _____, am writing to you as a member of the national student collective body, *Students Without Borders*. The organisation takes advantage of our large student community across Australia to engage people in areas that focus on progressive social change. One area that we are concerned about is the expansion of **the palm oil industry** and its devastating flow-on-effects to local environments, the global climate and our public conscience.

I am aware that your products, including the iconic Australian Tim Tams, contain vegetable oil and also saturated fat. I understand, therefore, that it is likely that the oil contained in this product is palm oil.

The increasing unsustainable sourcing of palm oil is very disconcerting to my student body and me. The expansion of the palm oil industry in Indonesia has turned the country into the third-largest CO₂ emitter, after China and the US. It takes up to 840 years for a palm oil plantation to soak up the carbon emitted when rainforest is burnt to plant the crop!

Indonesia has the fastest rate of deforestation, losing an area the size of Wales every year! The expansion of plantations has pushed the orang-utan to the brink of extinction in Sumatra. It has been reported that palm oil company employees and the burning of forests cause the death of up to 50 orang-utans each week.

Social Corporate Responsibility is at the forefront of acceptable business practice in today's globalised world. This requires you to take action on this issue.

It is your responsibility as a corporate citizen. It would be in your future financial and ethical long term viability to begin buying your ingredients from sustainable sources. It would be best if you would not opt for the lowest cost input, and stop using palm oil altogether. If you must continue buying palm oil, then ensuring it is sourced from sustainable practice is essential.

I would appreciate if you would answer the following questions:

- Which of your products contain palm oil?
- How is it labelled?
- Would you be prepared to label it as palm oil?
- Are you in a position to verify the country of origin of this oil?
- Are you able to verify whether the oil comes from sustainable sources, including providing details of the importer, wholesaler and plantations involved in your supply chain?
- Would you be prepared to look for an alternative oil which is less damaging to health and the environment?
- Are you a member of the RSPO?
- Although your palm oil supplier may be a member of the RSPO, this in no way guarantees that the palm oil is being produced sustainably. This needs to be demanded NOW. The situation for orang-utans and our world's climate is URGENT.

Signed: _____