

, 2009

The Hon Martin Ferguson, Minister for Resources and Energy
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Hon Martin Ferguson,

I am writing to you as I have recently found out from The Palm Oil Action Group that Australia is importing an estimated ten million litres of palm oil based bio-diesel a year, according to Australian Biodiesel Group chief executive Bevan Dooley. I have also been informed that there is currently no requirement in Australia for palm oil based biodiesel to be derived from sustainable sources, or indeed any independent authority to confirm the sustainability of such plantations.

Why is this issue important to me?

I therefore request that the Australian Government joins others in the world arena, including the EU, and legislates that imported biodiesel must not be complicit in forest destruction. This will send a clear message to Indonesia and Malaysia, and the Australian voters, that Australia is serious about our pledge to tackle climate change and reduce deforestation.

Please advise what immediate and long term steps that you will be taking in order to stop this madness and ensure Australia's future as a world player in environmental sustainability.

We have faith that the Rudd Government is up to this challenge and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

cc: Hon Penny Wong
Hon Peter Garrett