



MEMBERS'

BULLETIN

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Welcome

This members' news bulletin is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. With a Federal election looming later in the year, this issue focuses on activities associated with the Government's illegal logging policy process. Also covered is an initiative between ATIF and the Timber Merchants Association (TMA) to hold a special timber supply chain seminar in May.

Illegal logging policy process

It appears likely that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke MP will make a major announcement on the future direction of the Government's illegal logging policy deliberations and related issues in March. With this year being an election year the Government will want to announce progress with the implementation of a commitment made prior to the last election in relation to; "...cracking down on illegal logging".

Also by March the various projects initiated by the Government reported previously, including the preparation of a generic code of code that involved the ATIF should all be completed.

The Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) being prepared for the Government by the Centre for International Economics (CIE) is also nearing completion. ATIF make a submission on the draft RIS (circulated to members) and had further discussions with CIE prior to Christmas.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Forest and Wood Products Council (of which ATIF is a member) record the Minister Burke reaffirmed the importance the Government places on advancing its illegal logging policy on a formal scale and working with major supplier countries to ensure policy goals are met.

The Council agreed that illegal logging has a major impact on the forest industry and its



elimination is a primary concern for Australian businesses and communities dependant on forests that are having to compete against illegally logged timber products.

The Minister reiterated his strong support for the Government's illegal logging policy commitment and his determination to drive this commitment forward. He also reiterated that it is important for the Government and industry to work together on this policy.

ATIF is anticipating the need to continue working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Minister Burke's office, other industry sectors and interested stakeholders during this year to ensure that illegal logging policy outcomes will not disadvantageous to the timber importing sector. Any early meeting with DAFF officials is being scheduled.

Joint timber supply chain seminar

ATIF and the TMA have joined forces to stage a special one-day industry supply chain seminar in Melbourne this year. The seminar: *Connecting the Pieces for Business Success* will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Melbourne on Tuesday, 18 May. The seminar will be free of charge to company members of the ATIF and TMA. A charge will be made for others wishing to attend.

The seminar will cover key aspects of the timber industry supply chain, together with wider aspects of the timber industry's business environment, wood-based product marketing and matters related to company-level business success.

Seminar speakers will include leading timber supply chain experts, marketing specialists, technology providers and regulatory authorities. The seminar will reinforce the goals of ATIF and TMA to assist in growing industry capability and enhancing competitiveness and commercial success.

Seminar speakers will also cover a range of topics, including the changing nature of housing construction and the timber industry; product innovation and marketing activity; the 'drivers' for change, and emerging factors that will impact on future timber supply chain business performance.

Limited packages for principal seminar sponsors are available at \$1000. Associate seminar sponsorships are available at \$750. Registration and sponsorship inquiries should be directed to John Halkett, ATIF on (02) 9356 3826 or Peter Roberts, TMA on (03) 9875 5000.

Other news

- ▶ The ATIF is arranging for the preparation of high and low resolution ATIF and linked *Wood - Naturally Better* logos for use by members. They will be forwarded to members in due course along with instructions for use on company hard and soft copy material.
- ▶ The next ATIF Board meeting and AGM will be scheduled for the March-April period. Further advice will follow.