

MEMBERS'**BULLETIN****October 2010****No 11****IN THIS ISSUE:**

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **Recent Board meeting**
- ▶ **Reengaging the Federal Government on illegal logging policy**
- ▶ **Review of timber and species guides on ATIF website**
- ▶ **Other news**

Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This issue highlights the last Board meeting and the first interaction with the new Government on advancing illegal logging policy. Other ATIF activities and topics of interest are also mentioned.

Recent Board meeting

The recent Board meeting, held in Melbourne was the first timber industry body to meet at a Board level following the decision on the composition of the new Federal Government. Among other things the Board considered the outcome of the Federal election in terms of its impact on advancing the further development of illegal logging policy.

This was the first Board meeting attended by new Board Members Robert Cairns (Tasman KB, Victoria), Lou Boffo (Le Messurier Timber, South Australia) and Michael Swan (Swan Le Messurier, New South Wales).

In summarising the present situation in relation to the Government's illegal logging policy Chairman Nils Koren commented on a substantial effort that had been expended on working with the Government and with forests minister Tony Burke in particular in the final preparation and release of the Government's illegal logging policy in the lead up to and during the election campaign.

"We plan to stay engaged with the returned Labor Government to assist in determining the detail of the legislation and procedural components of the policy," he said.

"We will be ensuring that the way forward reflects the position agreed with the minister



prior to the election and does not adversely impact on the commercial performance of the timber importing and wholesaling sector.”

The next meeting of the ATIF Board will be held in Brisbane. Queensland ATIF members and other timber industry representations will be invited to lunch with the Board.

Reengaging the Federal Government on illegal logging policy

A meeting were held in Canberra on Tuesday, 21 September with John Talbot, General Manager, Forests Branch, Ben Mitchell, Manager, International Forest Policy and other Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry staff to recommence work on aspects of the Government's illegal logging policy. Issues that need attention were identified. Departmental representatives indicated that Senator Joe Ludwig, the new Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry would be fully briefed on illegal logging at the earliest opportunity.

A further meeting was held with Cecelia Burgman the new Minister's Deputy Chief of Staff and Forestry Adviser to brief her on the role ATIF played in development the illegal logging policy and to indicate key aspects of the policy that needed addressing into the future.

Review of timber and species guides on ATIF website

ATIF has initiated a review of the timber and species guide information available for downloading from the ATIF website. Board members are providing suggestions about the extent of the exercise. Discussions will then be held with the Timber Development Association and the Forest and Wood Products Australia to progress this review.

Other news

- ▶ Advice received indicates that the initiative to establish a single national organisation to represent the interests of the forest industry is likely to result in an announcement of the merger between the National Association of Forest Industries and the Australian Plantations Products and Paper Industry Council early in the new year.
- ▶ The ATIF pre-audited set of accounts for the year ending 30 June 2010 and budget for 2011 have been considered by the Board. The accounts have now been submitted for audit. In essence the financial position of ATIF is similar to the same time in the last financial year
- ▶ Have a look at the website www.pinenz.com that outlines the PINENZ new quality initiative that applies to existing engineered timber products exported from New Zealand into the Australian market. The range of products available and current Australian distributors are also set out on the website.