

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

June-July 2012**No 19****IN THIS ISSUE:**

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **Illegal Logging legislation update**
- ▶ **Cargo handling constraints at Melbourne and Fremantle ports**
- ▶ **ATIF next Board meeting and 2012 AGM**
- ▶ **Other news**

Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. The year has continued to be a busy one for ATIF, with a broad range of issues on the agenda. Work related to the Federal Government's illegal logging legislation and the now third parliamentary inquiry and related activity continues to occupy time and resources. This issue also contains an update on cargo handling and summarises other current issues.

Illegal Logging legislation update

As previously noted, the revised *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011* was now been referred from the House of Representatives to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) for its third parliamentary inquiry.

ATIF lead the preparation of a submission to the JSCFADT on behalf of timber industry supply chain associations that, in addition to ATIF, included the Timber and Building Materials Association, the Timber Merchants Association, the Timber Veneer Association of Australia and the Windows and Doors Industry Council.

To date a one day public hearing was held by the JSCFADT on 9 May. This hearing was confined to representatives of Australia's major timber supply countries. It is likely that further public hearings will be scheduled. Information about the inquiry is posted on the JSCFADT website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jfadt/loggingbill2011/index.htm

Cargo handling constraints at Melbourne and Fremantle ports

Following concerns raised ATIF has been communicating with Melbourne and Fremantle ports about current difficulties related to cargo handling, including being forced to unload containers at night and on weekends in an attempt to avoid late fees.

Importing company freight forwarding and transport contractors have reported needing to work 24 hours, seven days a week and accept any time slots to be able to pick up containers.

The mounting costs to timber importers from these delays and extended working hours have to be passed on along the supply chain. Inevitably this makes imported timber products less competitive in the market place.

ATIF held a meeting with senior management of the Port of Melbourne Port Corporation that was attended by managing directors of major Melbourne-based timber importing companies and freight forwarding companies. In relation to Fremantle port, ATIF has accepted a position on the Port Operations Task Force to attempt to assist improving port operational and capacity issues. That position will be shared by the Western Australian general managers of Gunnersens and Tilling.

ATIF next Board meeting and 2012 AGM

The next meeting of the ATIF Board will be held in Adelaide on the morning of Tuesday, 31 July. The Board meeting will be followed by lunch and the 2012 AGM. Formal advice about the AGM will be circulated to all member companies shortly.

South Australia ATIF members and guests will be invited to lunch with the Board before the AGM. The Board meeting, lunch and AGM will all be held in the Qantas meeting room, Adelaide Airport.

Board member Lou Boffo, Le Messurier Timber (Phone 08 8447 0400) will act as the coordinator for local enquiries.

Other news

- ▶ **Certification:** ATIF has been involved in assisting the staging of the *Certification: Growing demand. Increasing confidence. National Wood Products Forum & Workshop 2012* hosted by Planet Ark and held in Sydney on Thursday, 31 May. Thanks to the representations of ATIF member companies who participated in the event that attracted about 100 from the timber industry supply chain and other stakeholder groups. A summary of the event and speaker presentations are available for download at: <http://makeitwood.org/CertificationForum>

Photos from the day, plus a short video summarising the event will shortly be available at the above link on the Make It Wood website.

- ▶ **Importer-related research:** Following consultation with the Board and members, ATIF is working with the Timber Development Association to prepare a summary of research proposals that will be submitted to Forest and Wood Products Australia for consideration and possible funding support.
- ▶ **ATIF website:** The ATIF website is currently being updated, including revised introductory pages and membership details. This work will be completed in a few days.