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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This issue flags the upcoming 2011 AGM and ongoing activity related to the Federal Government's illegal logging policy and *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011*, plus other ongoing tasks.

AGM, Melbourne Tuesday, 16 August 2011

The 2011 AGM will be held in Melbourne at the Park Royal Melbourne Airport Hotel (formerly the Hilton). The AGM will be preceded by a Board meeting and lunch from 1:00-2:00 pm. During lunch Ric Sinclair, Managing Director, Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) will make a presentation on the new Wood Solutions website. The 2011 AGM will start at 2:00pm and finishing before 3:00 pm. All ATIF members are welcome to attend the lunch and AGM. Formal advice on the AGM will be circulated next week.

Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011

ATIF prepared a submission to the Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on the Government's *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011* and appeared before the committee as a witness. A copy of the committee's report is available at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rat_ctte/logging_bill_2011/index.htm It is planned to discuss the next steps in the legislative process with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the next week or so. The Federal Parliament has a five week recess starting on 11 July.

PNG legality assurance seminar

ATIF participated in a seminar arranged by the PNG Forest Industry Association in Port Moresby to consider legality assurance, particularly issues related to the Australian *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011*. The seminar was attended by PNG timber companies and officials, including the Managing Director of the PNG Forest Authority.



Separate discussions were held with the Delegation of the European Union to PNG on illegal logging and legality assurance issues.

AQIS interaction

ATIF has initiated the establishment of a more structured 'interaction' with the AQIS Timber and Timber Products National Coordination Centre. This has in part been motivated by a trend toward increasing volumes of timber product imports, more sophisticated in terms of manufacturing and treatment for several product categories and recent examples of phyto sanitary matters raised by ATIF members that include:

1. The impression of more 'rigorous' phyto sanitary documentation requirements for some products that is causing delays for freight forwarders and added costs.
2. Some uncertainty about treatment requirements for composite, LVL and OSB manufactured products.
3. Quarantine requirements for new sophisticated products, such as Cross Laminated Timber (CLT).
4. Issues in relation to sap stain presence of tropical hardwood solid timber products.
5. Treatment of products imported into Brisbane because of myrtle rust concerns.
6. The AQIS move away from MeBr treatment to heat sterilization.

The proposed 'interaction' will also provide an opportunity for ATIF to advise AQIS of any matters of concern within the timber importing sector and to seek any clarification of quarantine requirements needed. ATIF is awaiting a response to the proposal from AQIS.

Steering Committee to oversight expanding *Australian Forest and Wood Products Statistics* project

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Science (ABARES) and FWPA have jointly initiated a project to review the collection and analysis of forest industry data over the next four years so that the information currently available in the *Australian Forest and Wood Products Statistics* publication can be expanded.

In particular improved ABARES reporting will include sawn timber production, improved estimates of industry employment, data on the uses of timber products in residential and light commercial construction and forecasts of forest products consumption and trade.

ATIF has been asked to serve on the project steering committee. Other steering committee members are the Australian Forest Products Association, the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australia and ABARES. The first meeting of the steering committee was held on 5 July 2011.