

BULLETIN

September 2011

No 16

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **Board meeting and AGM**
- ▶ ***Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011***
- ▶ **Quarantine issues**
- ▶ **ATIF participation on boards and committees**

Welcome

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

Board meeting and 2011 AGM

A Board meeting and the 2011 AGM were held in Melbourne on 16 August. New appointments to the Board approved at the AGM were Gerry Gardiner, Managing Director, Asian Pacific Timber; John Simon, Managing Director, Simmonds Lumber, and Glenn Tilling, Managing Director, Tilling Timber. They replaced retiring members Norm Long, Paul Elsmore and Ashley Wright.

In acknowledging the new appointments ATIF chairman Nils Koren said the appointments reflected in part a "generational change" in the timber importing sector.

"Plus the appointments strengthen our capacity to deal with issues of critical business concern to the timber importing sector, such as the Government's illegal logging policy and the broad economic environment."

In reporting to the AGM Mr Koren stressed the importance of continuing recent effort in working with the Government and other stakeholders now that the illegal logging legislation had been introduced into the Parliament.

Mr Koren also identified the need for ATIF to be represented on a range of standards, technical and Government committees, plus industry bodies. "Recent appointments to key standards committees of ATIF representatives and close



engagement with Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) advisory groups are positive initiatives.”

He also went on to note the pleasing expansion of ATIF membership. “We are flagging to timber importers that we will be putting in additional effort on several other fronts.

Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011

Following the last Board meeting ATIF has had further interaction with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in relation to the revised *Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill 2011* that followed the review undertaken by the Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Committee.

In addition to a further meetings in Canberra with DAFF officials, ATIF has written two submissions on aspects of the revised Bill and likely related regulations. Effort related to the Bill is likely to continue as the Minister intends to have the legislation reintroduced into the Parliament later this year.

Quarantine issues

ATIF is responding to the need for a more structured effort on quarantine-related matters. In part this has been motivated by a trend toward increasing volumes of timber product imports, some of which are increasingly sophisticated in terms of manufacturing and treatment and other quarantine issues raised by ATIF members.

A preliminary meeting has now been held with the Hart Krtschil, Chairman of the Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ). It has been agreed that he will act as an initial point of contact for generic quarantine issues that ATIF brings to his attention.

ATIF members should continue to deal with their own day-to-day operational AQIS issues but raise any matters they feel have wider interest across the timber importing sector.

For those members that have been experiencing difficulties in relation to importing I-joists and I-beams and related components, updated quarantine treatment of this commodity class is set out in new AQIS advice (6 September 2011). Enter the link [Timber – I-joists and I-beams](#) and go to Page 2 of the document.

ATIF participation on boards and committees

ATIF recognise the value of having representation on strategic technical and industry committees. Recent ATIF appointments have been finalised to the Australian Standard committee TM006 dealing with timber product preservation (Garry Gardiner) and Australian Standard TM008 dealing with LVL and plywood (Craig Kay).

Other longer-standing appointments include Robert Cairns, John Simon, Matthew Wood and David Meyer on FWPA R&D and Directors’ selection advisory committees.

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