

MEMBERS'

BULLETIN

November 2015**No 36****IN THIS ISSUE:**

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition provides details of ATIF's expanded business support for member companies; advice about a planned meeting with the recently appointed Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources; comment about illegal logging related compliance, and notification about the FWPA AGM and an industry dinner, both in Canberra.

Expanded business support

ATIF has expanded its business support and services for ATIF member companies to include providing assistance to companies to comply with the requirements of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2012* and undertake necessary due diligence tasks. ATIF has partnered with legality and certification specialist Steve Mitchell to carry out company specific work covering the development of illegal logging due diligence compliance systems; completing information requests from the Department of Agriculture in relation to illegal logging and due diligence compliance, and understanding product certification systems, 'green' building rating schemes and formaldehyde and VOC testing advice.

This work will include explaining importers obligations under the legislation; helping set up and maintaining company due diligence systems; assistance with gathering information from suppliers; risk assessment and risk mitigation, and evaluating the adequacy of company due diligence systems.

In addition ATIF now has a joint agreement to work cooperatively with the Timber Trade Industrial Association to provide ATIF companies with work health and safety support to be carried out by Timber Trade Industrial Association on the discounted fee structure. This support will include undertaking work health and safety risk assessments and audits and developing company-specific and training to assist companies effectively implement their work place safety system.

The provision of these services will enhance the value of ATIF membership and assist company business performance. Enquiries can be directed to John Halkett.



Meeting with Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

The ATIF chairman and general manager have a meeting scheduled with the newly appointed Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston. In a letter to Senator Ruston, whose responsibilities include the forestry portfolio, chairman Nils Koren confirmed ATIF's intention to continue to work with the Government to restrict the import of illicit timber and wood-based products into Australia.

He pointed out that at the meeting ATIF would appreciate discussing aspects of the illegal logging legislation, notably progress with the review of the impact of the legislation on businesses, including the study carried out for the Government by KMPG that was completed in April 2015 and associated actions, such as the preparation of a regulatory impact statement and the business impacts and costs of carrying out legality assurance due diligence tasks.

He indicated that ATIF believes that cost effective due diligence procedures and limiting the impact of such procedures on business costs and on the timber industry supply chain are essential and that ATIF remains concerned about adverse impacts of current requirements on the commercial performance of the timber industry supply chain and its competitive position relative other building materials.

Illegal logging compliance advice

ATIF will be providing members with an addendum to the *ATIF Legality Compliance Toolkit* to highlight a number of illegal logging prohibition regulation matters flagged by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as a result of the analysis of the first round of responses to their information requests related to specific imported timber product consignments. This addendum will be circulated to ATIF members shortly.

In the meantime ATIF companies are encouraged to monitor the Department Compliance advice notices at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/compliance/can/2015>

FWPA AGM and industry dinner

FWPA member companies are invited to attend FWPA's AGM to be held on Thursday, 12 November 2015 at the Chronicle Room, East Hotel, 69 Canberra Avenue, Kingston, ACT commencing at 8:00am.

An industry dinner will be held at the Mural Hall, Australian Parliament House, on Wednesday, 11 November (the evening prior to the AGM). This dinner is being held in conjunction with the Australian Forest Products Association and the Parliamentary Friends of Forestry and Forest Products, which is co-convened by The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Mr Tony Pasin MP, Member for Barker. A special guest speaker at the dinner will be Professor Alex de Rijke, Dean of the School of Architecture at the Royal College of Art (United Kingdom) and principal of dRMM, which was awarded *Architect of the Year 2013-14*. Professor de Rijke is a renowned timber architect and a pioneer in the use of cross-laminated timber.

If you wish to attend the dinner, then please contact Elizabeth Goodfellow at Australian Forest Products Association (elizabeth.goodfellow@ausfpa.com.au) by Wednesday, 28 October. The dress code is lounge suit and the cost is \$210 per person.

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