

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

June-July 2016**No 39****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 notes changes to the biosecurity system, with the commencement of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*; updates activity related to illegal logging regulations, the 2016 BC Wood Buyers Mission, and mentions the upcoming Board meeting and new ATIF members.

New Biosecurity Act 2015

Important changes to Australia's biosecurity system come into effect on 16 June 2016 with commencement of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The *Biosecurity Act* replaces the *Quarantine Act 1908* and will introduce new requirements that affect how the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources manages biosecurity risks associated with goods, people, aircraft and vessels entering Australia. Queries can be directed to the Department on phone: 1800 040 629 or via email: newbiosecuritylegislation@agriculture.gov.au or to ATIF.

For importing related information see:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/new-biosecurity-legislation/16-june/importers>

ATIF will be participating in the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources National Biosecurity Committee Biosecurity Roundtable meeting on 22 June 2016. This meeting will provide an opportunity for biosecurity stakeholders to engage directly with their federal, state and territory government representatives.

Further advice of relevance to timber importers related to the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the Biosecurity Roundtable meeting will follow.



Illegal logging related activity

Little further to report to date on Government action following the in-principle endorsement of the recommendations of the KPMG report *Independent review of the impacts of the illegal logging regulations on small business*. As previously advised:

1. The Government has confirmed that the 'soft start' period has been extended until the KPMG report's regulatory recommendations have been progressed, and during this period there will be no significant changes to the current approach to compliance activity
2. The Government's is still developing the process for undertaking a regulatory impact statement (RIS). The RIS will assess the merits of the KPMG report's recommendations for any changes to the regulation. The RIS process will inform any changes to the illegal logging regulations and will include a formal public consultation process.
3. In line with another of the KPMG report's recommendations, the Department is considering options for enhancing the regulated community's understanding of the due diligence requirements.
4. Some work was foreshadowed by the department on making the existing due diligence tools more 'user friendly'. The department also noted that it is continuing to work with key trading partners to develop additional country specific guidelines.

It is anticipated that this work will quicken on the issues mentioned following the Federal elections.

BC Wood's Global Buyers Mission

BC Wood's Global Buyers Mission will be held in Whistler, British Columbia on 8-10 September 2016, and provides an opportunity for Australian buyers to meet and potentially develop new business relationships with Canadian timber products manufacturers and suppliers. Once again there is an attractive incentive package available for the 2016 program.

You can contact David Ingham, Trade Commissioner, High Commission of Canada directly for further advice. Phone: 02 6270 4034 or e-mail: david.ingham@international.gc.ca. Also ATIF has the full details of the buyer support package that can be emailed to you on request.

ATIF Board meeting

The next ATIF Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 June 2016 in Brisbane. The agenda for the meeting includes illegal logging legislation related issues; biosecurity/plant import matters and update, and closer collaboration between forest and timber trade associations.

New ATIF members

Former members of the Queensland Timber Importers, Wholesalers and Exporters Association (QTIWEA) have now become ATIF members. Hume Doors & Timber, PHD Timber Imports, T-Pac Lumber and Watts Wood & Mouldings are warmly welcomed to the ATIF family.

ATIF acknowledges and pays tribute to Chris Woodhouse and Doug Bartlett for their past service to QTIWEA.

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