

## MEMBERS'

# BULLETIN

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**Welcome**

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with current ATIF activities. This edition notes the intention to meet with the reappointed minister responsible for forestry, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, action to review plant import conditions and a summary of a recent ATIF Board meeting.

**Proposed meeting with Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources**

ATIF is finalizing a meeting with Senator the Hon Anne Ruston who has been reappointed as Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, with responsibility for forestry. The meeting will, in particular, consider possible changes to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013*, and the scheduled comprehensive review of the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* due next year.

The meeting is likely to also discuss other matters of particular relevance to timber importers and wholesales, including the review of plant import conditions that is now underway and the importance of timber products to mid-rise building construction following amendments to the National Construction Code.

**Review of plant imports conditions**

ATIF is working with Plant Imports officials from the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on changes to timber product import conditions as part of a comprehensive review of plant import quarantine conditions that will impact on timber product import procedures.

The Timber Import Conditions Review stakeholder group met in July 2016 to share information relevant to the review of biosecurity risks being undertaken by the Federal Government.



The stakeholder group noted that the nature of timber products arriving into Australia is changing, such as a greater percentage of processed products being imported. The manufacturing and processing, transport, storage and logistics of manufactured timber products has greatly changed, and the import conditions need to be reviewed to reflect this reality.

The stakeholder group, that includes ATIF, discussed a number of proposed changes to current import conditions to facilitate clear and consistent import conditions that will improve the management of biosecurity risks on the import pathway while facilitating trade. The group was encouraged to suggest new treatments and processes as biosecurity risk mitigation methods, and to raise issues with proposed revised conditions. The group will be asked to provide endorsement once draft BICON case structures and conditions are drafted.

The stakeholder group will meet again in early September to work through the conditions and case structures. In the meantime stakeholders may raise issues with conditions or direct queries to the Plant Import Conditions Review mailbox: [planticr@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:planticr@agriculture.gov.au)

### **ATIF Board meeting summary**

At a recent meeting of the ATIF Board in Brisbane the formal closure of the Queensland Timber Importers Association (QTIA) and transfer of four new members to ATIF was acknowledged. The closure of the QTIA with members prepared to work closely with other timber importers at a national level was unanimously endorsed at a QTIA board meeting in March. Mr Woodhouse, a principal of Woodhouse Timber, said the move away from a purely state-based organisation to one with a strong national perspective was perceived as reflective of today's needs.

After the ATIF meeting, Mr Woodhouse took the opportunity to present a cheque that represented a proportion of QTIA's liquidated funds to a representative of the J.W. Gottstein Memorial Trust Fund to support the timber industry educational activities.

The ATIF board also appreciated the opportunity to meet with the recently appointed Timber Queensland CEO Mick Stephens over dinner after the board meeting.

At their meeting the Board discussed the Federal Government's illegal logging legislation following the in-principle endorsement of the recommendations of the KPMG review of the impacts of the illegal logging legislation on timber product importing businesses. More specifically, the board discussed progress on the preparation of a regulatory impact statement by the department and possible subsequent amendments to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013*.

Possible changes to plant import conditions that could impact on timber product imports following the June commencement of new Federal biosecurity legislation were also discussed by the Board.

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