

## MEMBERS'

# BULLETIN

November – December 2018

No 53

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) treatment forum, Melbourne, 22 November**
- ▶ **Tariffs on Canadian timber imports to be eliminated**
- ▶ **FWPA 2018 AGM and mid-rise demonstration building launch**
- ▶ **Second Department of Agriculture and Water Resources illegal logging webinar**
- ▶ **Christmas greeting**

### Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This edition details the planned Brown Marmorated Stink Bug treatment forum; news about the removal of tariffs on Canadian timber imports; ATIF attendance at the FWPA AGM and mid-rise demonstration building 'launch', and a note on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resource's second illegal logging webinar.

### Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) treatment forum, Melbourne, 22 November

A meeting to discuss BMSB treatment issues will be held on Thursday, 22 November from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Mercure North Melbourne Hotel, Corner of Flemington Road and Harker Street, North Melbourne. The purpose of the forum will be:

1. To identify difficulties associated with the currently required BMSB treatment regime (geography, offshore and onshore treatment, instructions and advice).
2. To suggest improvements to current BMSB-related practices aimed at improving future BMSB treatment requirements.

The forum will be attended by representatives of the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. A number of ATIF members have already advised that they will be attending. Seating is limited so if you have not already indicated that you would like to attend please do so promptly. Any queries please contact me. A reminder and additional details will be circulated closer to the date.

### Tariffs on Canadian timber imports to be eliminated

A joint statement from Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham on 31 October advises that Australia has ratified the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP-11) trade agreement. Australia is the sixth country to ratify the agreement, meaning it can now enter into force on 30 December this year. Australia joins Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and Singapore as part of the first group to ratify the trade agreement.



In the joint statement the Prime Minister said: “Our ratification means we are guaranteeing maximum benefits for our farmers and businesses, with the bonus of two tariff reductions within 3 days - one on 30 December and another on 1 January 2019. The TPP-11 is one of the most comprehensive and ambitious trade agreements in Australia’s recent history. It will help support Australian businesses to grow and see annual benefits of up to \$15.6 billion to our national economy by 2030.”

With TPP-11 entering into force on 30 December 2018 the tariffs applied to exports of Canadian timber products to Australia will be eliminated from that date. This outcome has received the support and encouragement of ATIF.

### **FWPA 2018 AGM and mid-rise demonstration building launch**

Representing the second largest compulsory levy contributor to fund Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) activities ATIF attended at the 2018 AGM of FFWPA. The AGM was held at the Holmesglen Institute’s Chadstone campus in Melbourne. John Simon was re-elected as the chair of the FWPA Board. Two new non-executive directors, Katie Fowden and Craig Taylor were elected to the Board. Ms Fowden is the strategic relations manager for Hyne Timber and is also a non-executive director of Responsible Wood. Mr Taylor is a director and principal of The Fifth Estate Consultancy. He has over 30 years’ management and consulting experience in primary industries, mostly in the plantation forestry sector.

The AGM was followed by the ‘launch’ of the mid-rise demonstration building by Senator Richard Colbeck, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources. The demonstration building will benefit Australia’s construction and forestry industries by demonstrating the extraordinary capacity of timber as a sustainable, renewable and versatile building resource.

Senator Colbeck said the FWPA midrise demonstration building represented an exciting step forward for Australia’s forestry sector. “The change to the national construction code in 2016 has created new opportunities for the forestry sector to market timber products as a renewable rival for steel and concrete,” said Senator Colbeck.

“We’re certainly seeing a trend towards increased use of structural timber in large-scale construction developments as a more versatile and environmentally friendly option for 21st century tradies. The mid-rise building has been developed to give builders and designers a better understanding of how timber can be used, including cutting-edge engineered wood products like cross laminated timber,” he said.

### **Second Department of Agriculture and Water Resources illegal logging webinar**

A video of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resource’s second illegal logging webinar, *Australia’s illegal logging laws - A deeper dive on due diligence*, along with a transcript of the event is available on the Department’s illegal logging web pages. You can find these at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/illegal-logging/webinar-recordings>

A copy of the first illegal logging webinar, *Australia’s illegal logging laws - Your responsibilities as an importer*, is also available on the same page. The two webinars provide an overview of Australia’s illegal logging laws and the associated due diligence requirements.

### **Christmas greeting**

Yes – early I know, but the ATIF Board and staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all members, colleagues, families and friends a restful, happy and safe Christmas break. We look forward to seeing back safe and energetic in 2019!

*This newsletter has been prepared by ATIF General Manager John Halkett*

*Tel: 0417 421 187 Email: [john.halkett@bigpond.com](mailto:john.halkett@bigpond.com)*