

MEMBER'S BULLETIN

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Welcome:

This is the second periodic news bulletin designed to keep you, as a member of the ATIF, up to date with activities being directed by the ATIF Board. The Board's last meeting was in July and some of the issues summarised in this news bulletin were considered at that meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November and will be held in Melbourne.

Attendance at meeting of Forest and Wood Products Council:

John Halkett represented the ATIF at the first meeting of the Forest and Wood Products Council (FWPC) since the change of Federal Government. The FWPC is chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke. Illegal logging policy was on the agenda for the meeting. The Minister indicated that the Government would be reviewing and progressing this issue in line with the undertakings contained in Government election pledges.

Meeting with Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry officials and the Minister's Forestry Advisor:

Norm Long, Nils Koren and John Halkett had meetings in Canberra in July with the new General Manager of Forest Industries Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, John Talbot and his international forest policy staff, and with the new Forestry Advisory to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Skye Laris.

The meetings were intended to update ATIF on the Government's policy direction and to inform the Government of the ATIF's willingness and capacity to assist the policy process. Officials indicated that policy development would need to take a whole-of-government approach. Further, that continuing input into policy formulation and implementation from the ATIF would be welcomed.



The Minister's Forestry Advisor also welcomed the participation into policy review and formation by the ATIF.

Forest & Wood Products Australia wood promotion campaign

The ATIF has continued to participate in the development of this campaign. The official launch will be in early October and substantial advertising and other activities will occur before the end of the year. ATIF member companies will be circulated with information about the campaign and invitations to attend launch functions.

Western Red Cedar marketing

Discussions between the ATIF and the Western Red Cedar Association (WRCA) have considered Western Red Cedar marketing and sales activity in Australia. There is a view among Australian timber importers and others in the timber supply chain that the marketing effort, related technical and other support surrounding Western Red Cedar products could be strengthened.

Of particular interest seems to be hard copy material to complement on-line information and some face-to-face product and product application knowledge updating. A number of suggestions to strengthen marketing and sales support have been advanced in a briefing paper prepared for the WREA and the Canadian High Commission.

Forest & Wood Products Australia research program

Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) is currently finalising a preferred research provider from the seven expressions of interests received to undertake the ATIF-initiated study to examine legality mechanisms of imported timber and wood products, including third verification and other procedures.

This study will provide a benchmark from which an Australian responsible purchasing policy and supporting mechanism could be developed. The project will cover both tropical hardwood and temperate softwood timber and wood products. The research report will identify, describe and rank mechanisms or aspects of procedures that could work in the Australian context.

The general intent and direction of the research has been endorsed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Other news

Members will be provided with a brochure containing an application form to become a member of FWPA. As FWPA levy payers importing companies are entitled to become members. There is no fee involved.

Board Member Bob Frost has been appointed as the ATIF representative on the Timber Development Association Board.

ATIF is in the process of contacting timber importing companies not currently members of ATIF to invite them to join, subject to the ATIF constitution and Code of Ethics requirements.

This newsletter has been prepared by John Halkett, ATIF Technical Manger