

MEMBERS'

BULLETIN

March-April 2014**No 27****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 an update in the Federal Government's illegal logging regulation; the opening of the Docklands library and community complex and advice on preliminary discussions with AQIS about improvements to quarantine matters affecting timber product imports.

Illegal logging regulation

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck has, after considering additional material and further representations, decided to make some amendments to the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Amendment Regulation 2013*. These amendments are largely matters identified by the industry and do not collectively alter the thrust of the regulation. ATIF is disappointed that the amendments do not include some of the more substantive issues raised by ATIF both in correspondence with the Parliamentary Secretary and in submissions to the Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture has now published a series of guidelines and a position paper related to the regulation. This information is accessible on the department's website (daff.gov.au/illegallogging)

It has also been advised that an 18 month 'transitional' or 'soft' compliance period following the November 2014 start date of the regulation will be implemented so that necessary education and training can be provided to the timber supply chain and supplier countries. Further detail about the regulation and related matters will be provided to ATIF member companies as soon as possible.

The ATIF Chairman and General Manager have a meeting scheduled with Senator Colbeck to discuss the amended regulation and related matters in early July.

Docklands library open

Australia's first public building constructed using Cross Laminated Timber (CLT), Melbourne's Docklands library and community centre, has opened its doors to the public. The complex was built in partnership between the City of Melbourne, Places Victoria and Lend Lease. The major structural components of the three-storey building are made from



more than 500 cubic metres of CLT, produced at Stora Enso's manufacturing facility in Austria and shipped to Australia.

One of the many advantages of building with CLT is the short construction time that, in the case of the Docklands project, was just two and a half months. "The Australian construction industry is well used to working with wood, and CLT has recently been gaining a lot of attention from construction companies due to its many advantages. The Docklands library and community centre is an excellent example of how wood, and especially CLT, can deliver added value as a construction material," says Matti Mikkola, Vice President, Building Solutions, Stora Enso Building and Living.

The library and community centre complex has been constructed on a wharf originally designed in 1879. Because of the light weight of CLT, only a limited amount of additional pilings and repairs of the old timber posts were required, which also considerably reduced the cost of the project.

Setting new environmental standards, the Docklands complex achieved a 6 Star Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. The opening of the Docklands centre provides yet another example of the critical role being played in Australia by major timber product importing companies like Stora Enso in leading innovation in commercial and residential prefabrication.

Maintaining this innovation in panel products like CLT and palletised wall and flooring systems will be essential as Australia's commercial construction activity continues to ramp up and as residential housing construction nudges towards 200 000 starts a year.



Image credit: Stora Enso

Quarantine issues

ATIF is in discussions with senior AQIS officials with a view to initiating a process to consider quarantine matters related to the import of timber products. Some ATIF member companies have been consulted to assist in identifying issues that add time and cost to timber imports.

Advice on matters mutually agreed by ATIF and AQIS for further effort will be notified to ATIF members following the meeting with AQIS scheduled for July.

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