

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This edition comments on management changes at Gunnersen; ongoing efforts related to Brown Marmorated Stink Bug treatment requirements; advice on the first illegal logging infringement notice, and a brief look at softwood timber imports this year.

Changes at Gunnersen

Managing director of Gunnersen since 2008, Nils Koren has handed over the role to Nils Gunnersen. "Since its inception in 1879, Gunnersen has been managed by family members. Now in 2019 it is time for the fifth generation to take the business forward into an ever changing market place," said Mr Koren.

Nils Koren will continue to be part of the corporate and strategic leadership of the company and also remain as Chairman of the ATIF.

In congratulating Nils Gunnersen on his elevation to the position of managing director of one of the country's most successful, influential and multi-faceted forest industry companies, ATIF general manager John Halkett said Nils Gunnersen has impeccable credentials for the role, and has served a significant apprenticeship period under Nils Koren.

"That said I am both delighted and relieved that Nils Koren will continue as ATIF Chairman. Much of the success and influence that ATIF has enjoyed over recent years has been due to Nils' great sense of business practice, keen understanding of the industry, sharp political antennae and energy."

New members welcomed

ATIF welcomes new members EGGER Australia, www.egger.com and ATS Building Products, www.atstimber.com.au. Details of the national distribution of these two leading building products wholesalers is on the ATIF website: www.atif.asn.au



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug submission and review

ATIF has prepared a submission related to the required treatment of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) risk for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. This submission follows the BMSB forum held by ATIF in Melbourne last November.

ATIF has also written to Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources on this issue. In its submission ATIF outlines recommendations for consideration prior to the commencement of the 2019 BMSB risk season.

In a further development on this issue the Inspector General of Biosecurity has commenced a review into BMSB treatment measures to assess the effectiveness of the biosecurity measures to manage the risks of BMSB entering Australia. ATIF will participate in this review.

First illegal logging infringement notice issued

The first infringement notice for non-compliance issued under Australia's illegal logging laws was served in November 2018. The penalty associated with this infringement notice was \$12,600.

This action serves to reinforce the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources implementation of a full compliance model for the illegal logging laws, with the "soft start-compliance period" ending in January 2018.

In administering the illegal logging laws the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will be continuing to audit importers and processors to assess their compliance with the laws' requirements. To date over 600 businesses have been audited provided a range of advice on whether their due diligence systems meet the laws' requirements.

More compliance audits are scheduled for 2019. ATIF member companies are again urged to review that illegal logging due diligence systems. Assistance can be provide if required. ATIF will be visiting members in Victoria and South Australia in the first half of this year to assist with any aspects of their illegal logging due diligence and compliance procedures.

Softwood imports to remain buoyant in 2019

ATIF predicts that 2019 is likely to see domestic timber product demand more muted than last year as signs of house construction easing in the Eastern states become more apparent with evidence of oversupply of city apartments, accompanied by falling prices for existing homes and tightening lines of credit.

However, with domestic softwood production continuing at below demand levels expect to see imports, particularly of structural timber and engineered products continue to be buoyant, but not at the remarkable 30 per cent plus growth rates of 2017-18.

Imports of sophisticated timber products are also likely to continue to be strong caused in part by the growing appetite for urban 'infill' and the opportunities presented by mid-rise wooden residential and commercial building construction.

ATIF will continue to strongly support the wholesaling and importing sector of the industry in the policy and market access arena.

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