

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This edition updates previous advice on the serious issue of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) treatment requirements. Also below are updates on ATIF projects on port congestion and charges, and the mid-rise Market Implementation Group. Finally some brief comments on actions to provide a building codes and standards compliance checklist for imported structural softwoods, and the new Federal forestry minister, Senator Jonathon Duniam.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug update

Further to advice set out in the last edition of this bulletin, ATIF continues to be engaged with activity related to required treatment of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), specifically:

- The Inspector General of Biosecurity has commenced a review into BMSB treatment measures to assess the effectiveness of the biosecurity measures to manage BMSB risks.
- Discussions on seasonal measures for the BMSB 2019-20 risk season.

Four ATIF companies (Meyer, Tilling, Stora Enso and ATS Building Products) have been nominated for the BMSB Safeguarding Arrangements trial for the 2019-2020 BMSB high risk season. If Safeguarding Arrangements applications are successful companies will avoid the need to carry out mandatory treatment, assuming the conditions detailed in the application form can be verified and adhered to.

The finalised Safeguarding Arrangements application documents are expected shortly. Following the receipt and initial review of the application documents a meeting on nominated companies in Melbourne is being contemplated. ATIF has arranged an offer of assistance in completing application documents from the Freight & Trade Alliance.

Again details on the 2019-20 BMSB seasonal measures and on how to prepare for the season commencing 1 September 2019 will be available from: www.agriculture.gov.au/bsmb Queries can be directed to spp@agriculture.gov.au or the BMSB hotline 1800 900 090.



Port congesting and charges report

The issue previously identified of difficulties and escalating costs associated with port congestion and charges is of concern to a range of product importing and exporting companies, including timber importers. ATIF is advanced in investigating and preparing a report on this issue that will be circulated when completed.

Target ministers and officials for the report and covering letter will be determined in consultation with other trade bodies.

Mid-rise Market Implementation Group project

This existing frame and truss mid-rise project has been extended by a further 12 months. This extension to the Mid-rise Market Implementation Group (MIG) project is intended to assist MIG member companies in developing a much greater *'engagement and awareness building focus'*, in addition to continuing to assist in lifting the MIG members technical understanding, knowledge and comfort around lightweight timber framed mid-rise construction.

Over the next twelve months it is intended to build the frame and truss sector capacity to service the four plus storey mid-rise apartment market, and for the respective companies involved to take on the roles of customer engagement, servicing, supply and further development of off-site prefabricated products and market offerings.

Craig Kay of the Tilling Group continues to represent ATIF on the project working group. Project funding support is being provided by Forest and Wood Products Australia.

Structural softwood compliance

Because of evidence emerging of possible non compliance with some requirements of Australian building codes and standards for some more recent sources of structural softwoods, ATIF has asked the Timber Development Association (TDA) to prepare a compliance check list for imported structural softwoods (treated and untreated) that will be circulated to ATIF and TABMA members.

This issue does not relate to illegal logging due diligence requirements, or to any phytosanitary matters.

New Federal forestry minister

ATIF plans to have a preliminary discussion with Jonathon Duniham, the recently appointed Assistant Minister with responsibility for forestry at a dinner in Canberra being organised by the Australian Forest Products Association. A Tasmanian Jonathon Duniham, 36 is a graduate of Marist Regional College in Burnie and the son of Waratah-Wynyard deputy mayor Mary Duniham. Before entering Federal Parliament he was the deputy chief of staff to Tasmania Premier Will Hodgeman, so no stranger to the forest industry.

Jonathon also takes on regional tourism interests, and will be the deputy manager of Government Business in the Senate.