

MEMBERS' BULLETIN

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75

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **Illegal logging regulations review update**
- ▶ **Timber supply consultation update**
- ▶ **Malaysian Timber Council Australian trade and marketing mission**
- ▶ **ATIF membership fees 2022-2023 year**

Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. This edition provides further comments about the review of the illegal logging regulations, and further advice regarding structural softwood supplies. Also, early notification about an upcoming Malaysian Timber Council trade and marketing mission to Australia from 26-29 September. Finally, notification about the ATIF membership fees of the 2022-2023 year.

Illegal logging regulations review update

Further to comments in the July edition, ATIF had requested and received a briefing from the International Forest Policy Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment (DAWRE) over progress with the review of illegal logging regulations. Advice is as follows:

Public consultation on *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012* opened on 6 July 2021 and closed on 30 September 2021. Public feedback was invited on potential reforms to the Regulation and associated Act to ensure the legislation remained effective in protecting the Australian market from illegally logged timber and achieving their purpose of promoting trade in sustainable, legally harvested timber. Submissions received have been summarised into six key reforms:

1. Receiving due-diligence information upfront
2. Adding at-border powers
3. Optimising the regulatory burden
4. Adding 'deemed to comply' arrangements for certified products
5. Optimising the products regulated
6. Other potential reforms.

This summary of feedback will be used to develop a set of recommendations for Government to consider in due course. ATIF will be discussing this matter at an upcoming meeting with the Minister for Agriculture Murray Watts.



Timber supply consultation update

As previously indicated, ATIF has had meetings with officials from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and the DAWRE to discuss predicted timber supply challenges, and possible government and industry actions related to both softwood and hardwood supplies. A meeting was also held with the Housing Industry Association to review timber shortages in the context of building and construction trends.

Following these meetings ATIF has provided additional advice to the Federal Government indicating the merits of a collaborative initiative between the industry and relevant Federal Government agencies to explore options to mitigate the impact on supply chains, and investigate options to diversify current EWP and solid softwood timber supply options. This advice covered the following matters:

1. A temporary tariff waiver on EU-sourced timber products.
2. Future LVL supply issues.
3. Action to investigate additional supplies of softwood structural timber.
4. Laboratory testing and independent verification of international timber grades.

Malaysian Timber Council Australian trade and marketing mission

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) has scheduled a trade and marketing mission to Australia from 26-29 September that will comprise leading Malaysian timber and furniture manufacturing business executives. The mission will seek to underscore the commitment of the Malaysian timber and furniture industries to strengthen the already close ties and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationships with Australia companies.

MTC's Director of International Business Development Khairul Anwar stated that he was confident the bilateral trade between Malaysia and Australia will continue to flourish. "It is my hope that both governments and business communities will continue to work together for the mutual benefit of both our countries."

During the MTC marketing mission seminars will be held in Melbourne and Sydney that will provide an opportunity to update the Australian timber and furniture industries on policy and business development in Malaysian industries, and also include presentations on initiatives in Malaysia to advance sustainable forestry practices; forest certification, product chain-of-custody, and product innovation and collaborative marketing.

Enquiries regarding the upcoming MTC marketing mission should be directed to Campbell McInnes at 0406 223 007 or campbell@mitimber.com.au

ATIF membership fees 2022-2023 year

The past year has been a busy one for ATIF in relation to matters impacting upon timber importing and wholesaling, compounded by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the consequential disruption to already challenging supply, logistics and transport issues. As indicated, ATIF has been liaising with various the Federal Government agencies over matters of supply. Liaison has extended to some supplier country trade entities, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Europe and New Zealand.

Activity has also included interaction with the DAWRE over timber importing related matters, including the 2022 BMSB treatment season. ATIF has also maintained an active relationship during the year with Forest and Wood Products Australia to ensure that the compulsory levies paid by ATIF member companies are spent in a way that benefits importers and wholesalers.

Invoices for 2022-2023 ATIF membership fee will be dispatched this month.

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