

# MEMBERS

# BULLETIN

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### Welcome

This *Members' Bulletin* is intended to keep you up-to-date with ATIF activities. Once again, this edition draws attention to the ongoing concerns about illegal logging compliance, the substantial number of infringement notices issued, and errors in interpreting the legislation by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). This will be a topic of consideration at the next ATIF board meeting.

Also comments about continuing 'tensions' related to Increased imports of Chinese timber products utilising Russian-sourced logs. Plus notification about the Australian Timber Supply Summit in Melbourne on 29-30 August 2023 and Malaysian Timber Council hosted timber seminar and business networking opportunity in Brisbane on Friday, 1 September 2023.

### ATIF Board meeting Tuesday, 12 September 2023

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 September. The venue will be the Stora Enso facility at Derrimut, Melbourne. At the conclusion of the Board meeting there will be a presentation related to options to address illegal logging compliance following the recent actions by DAFF. A legal representative will address the Board and interested company representatives will be invited to attend. Invitations will be forwarded, but you may contact me as required.

### Illegal Logging legislation compliance

Again, and as previously reported, ATIF has concerns about DAFF's much more aggressive action on illegal logging compliance and the issuing of infringement notices for alleged non-compliance with the illegal logging legislation.



Following consultation with ATIF member companies, relevant industry bodies and lawyers, and a lack of any reaction from DAFF or the Minister for Agriculture about the aggressive and disproportionate, compliance actions it has been decided to consider legal remedies available to address this matter. As above this will be considered at the upcoming meeting of the ATIF Board.

### **Increased imports of Chinese timber products utilising Russian-sourced logs**

To reinforce earlier advice, ATIF has made it clear on a number of occasions that it unequivocally condemns the atrocities perpetrated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Russian Government's previous announcement about a ban on the export of logs in 2022 in favour of processing these logs domestically has not been implemented. While many countries have banned log imports from Russia, China and some other countries have not.

China has always utilised significant quantities of Russian logs in manufacturing a wide range of timber products that have subsequently been exported. Evidence suggests that increasing volumes of logs are currently being exported from Russia into China then manufactured into timber products that are then exported.

The Australian Border Force has confirmed the current practice of relying on Country-of-Origin declarations in Bills of Lading and other import documentation. In the case of timber products manufactured in China utilising Russian-sourced (or other) logs declaring the Country-of-Origin as China continues to be the established lawful practice. Of course, under Australia's illegal logging regulation, importers continue to be required to attest that the logs utilised in the manufacture of imported timber from Russia, or elsewhere, are obtained from lawful forest harvesting operations.

### **Australian Timber Supply Summit, Melbourne, 29-30 August 2023**

Registrations remain open to attend the Australian Timber Supply Summit in Melbourne on 29-30 August 2023. Australian Federal and State governments, industry associations and the industry have long been debating the future Australian timber product supplies needed to provide for a growing population, and for the predicted building and construction demand.

The 2023 Australian Timber Supply Summit will engage the collective minds of the industry to seek a resolution to the timber supply issues. Summit speakers will include leading international and domestic speakers. For more information see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/766c3498-2748-451b-afdd-7265e7ee67d4/summary>

### **Malaysian timber and business seminar, Brisbane, 1 September 2023**

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) will be hosting a timber seminar and business networking opportunity in Brisbane on Friday, 1 September 2023. The venue is the Four Points by Sheraton Brisbane, 99 Mary Street, Brisbane. The seminar is aimed at providing the Australian timber industry with an update on Malaysian's sustainable forest management and innovation in the country's timber industry. There is no registration fee for participants.

Senior members of the MTC, and the Malaysian timber product manufacturing industries will be traveling to Australia to participate in the seminar. See the associated flyer and for further information, please contact: Campbell McInnes at 0406 223 007 or [campbell@mitimber.com.au](mailto:campbell@mitimber.com.au)

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