

**MEMBERS BULLETIN – 6<sup>TH</sup> December 2024****AGM Summary + New CoM Members | ATIF Member update**

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The ATIF Education Workshop & AGM was held on Monday, November 11, 2024, which featured a detailed session on the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, focusing on its intentions, legislative changes, and current enforcement efforts. Natalie Reynolds led the discussion, guiding members through the following key points:

- **Changes to the Act:** detailed explanation on the recent amendments to the legislation, detailing their implications for stakeholders.
- **Draft Regulations and ATIF's Response:** Discussion around the proposed regulations and ATIF's stance, highlighting the next steps for the industry.
- **Handling Requests for Information:** ATIF provided advice on how to respond to Requests for Information under the Act.
- **Department of Agriculture's Enforcement:** An update on the current activities of the Department of Agriculture, including their focus on compliance and enforcement.
- **ATIF's Future Plans:** The session concluded with a look at ATIF's strategies to address emerging issues and advocate for the industry's interests moving forward.

We also covered several important topics, including the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and its comparison to the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act (ILPA), as well as developments in timber testing.

- **The EUDR vs. the Australian Regime:** Alecia Gianiotis provided an overview of the EUDR, explaining how it differs from Australia's ILPA. She also discussed the roles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in verifying that deforestation and forest degradation have not occurred. The discussion included how Governance Modules and technology solutions can aid compliance with the Australian system.
- **Validating Documentation from International Supply Chains:** Natalie Reynolds addressed the critical issue of validating documents and certificates from international suppliers. She explained how to spot errors or invalid documents and introduced the Nepcon Guide to help importers ensure the accuracy of their due diligence efforts.

- **Timber Testing and Technology Advancements:** The AGM also covered the Australian Government's new authority to conduct timber fibre testing, including analysis of the types of testing available, their outputs, and the rapid advancements in technology. Jugo Ilic (Know Your Wood) and Charlie Watkinson (Source Certain) presented on the latest testing methods. The discussion included the ATIF Timber and Fibre Testing Guide and Supply Chain Tracing Providers, with a media release being prepared in response to DAFF fibre testing results.

During the ATIF AGM held on Monday, November 11, 2024, the four open positions on the Committee of Management (CoM) were successfully filled. The Association expressed gratitude for the time and effort of the outgoing CoM members Chris Woodhouse (Woodhouse Timber), David Meyer (Meyer Timber), and Leon Quinn (Tilling Timber). Their contributions were sincerely appreciated.

At the same time, the AGM welcomed new members Glenn Tilling (Tilling Timber), Alan Bones (Woodhouse Timber), and Robert Sansotta (VTW) to the Committee of Management (COM), with Robert Cairns returning for another term, marking an exciting new chapter for the organisation.