

PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP MEETING
21 July 2016
MEETING SUMMARY

The Patents Consultation Group (PCG) met on Thursday 21 July 2016, below is a summary of the minutes of this meeting provided for public release.

The PCG were provided an update on legislative activities including, the proposed IP Laws Amendment Bill, Deregulation and Single Economic Market. The PCG were advised that the timing of the Bill being introduced to Parliament will depend on Government priorities. There will be an opportunity at exposure draft stage for stakeholders to provide further comment on the proposed amendments. The amendments to fees resulting from the recent Fee Review are on track to commence in October 2016. IP Australia noted that the New Zealand Commerce Committee had recommended that the New Zealand Government not proceed with the Single Application and Single Examination processes. Planned public consultations on these initiatives are on hold until the New Zealand Government makes a decision.

The Chair provided an update on how IP Australia is dealing with possible breaches under S201 of the Patents Act. The Chair advised PCG that the matter is now before the Professional Standards Board for consideration.

IPTA raised concerns for examination practices in relation to dependent claims and Foreign Search Reports. IP Australia will consider the issues raised and investigate potential improvements.

The PCG discussed the outcomes of recent attorney visits to discuss opposition practices post Raising the Bar and considered the issue of extension of time applications.

The PCG were informed of pending changes to Patents correspondence, IP Australia is still scoping the improvements and will be incorporating feedback from stakeholders. IP Australia will notify customers prior to implementing these changes.

The PCG were also provided updates on the Productivity Commission's Review of Australia's IP Arrangements and the Search Information Statement Survey. IP Australia will be consulting with stakeholders on the Search Information Statement in late 2016.

The next PCG meeting will be held on 3 November 2016 in Canberra.