

PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP MEETING
3 November 2016
MEETING SUMMARY

The Patents Consultation Group (PCG) met on Thursday 3 November 2016, below is a summary of the minutes of this meeting provided for public release.

The PCG were provided with an update on legislative activities including, the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill, the Productivity Commission Report, the Fee Review, the New Zealand Bill and the publication of the forward policy register on IP Australia's website.

- The group were advised that IP Australia received a consultation draft of the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill in October and plan for the Bill to be introduced in Autumn 2017 following consultation in late 2016 and early 2017.
- The final report on the Productivity Commission Review was received by the government on 23 September and is currently being considered. It is expected the report will be published by 14 February 2017.
- The Chair advised the group that IP Australia's new fee arrangements took effect on 10 October.
- IP Australia noted that the Single Application Process and Single Examination Process were removed from the New Zealand Bill containing the Single Economic Market initiatives. The Bill has had a second reading. The Bill must be read for a third time before 15 December 2016 for the trans-Tasman attorney registration regime to come into effect on 24 February 2017.
- The IP Australia policy register is expected to be publicly available online during the first half of 2017. The register's aim is to be as open and transparent as possible.

The Assistant General Manager of Oppositions Practice and Training lead a discussion surrounding the omission of inventors' names from published applications. PCG members were cautious to allow the omission and it was concluded that there was insufficient support among PCG members for this to be pursued further at this time.

The Director of Continuous Improvement and Innovation gave a presentation regarding the re-design of IP Rights correspondence for customers which is due to commence on 29 November 2016. Changes include: the use of two streams; for new filers and those with more filing experience, strategic use of colour in the new design to promote action in customers and, the addition of metadata to customer correspondence.

PCG Members raised address for service, low quality innovation patent filings from overseas and as current issues. IP Australia is aware of these issues and they are under ongoing discussion.

Quality of IP Australia's examination reports, PCT priority and translation issues and DAS fees were also discussed at length. IP Australia will follow up queries raised and report to PCG members at the next meeting.

The next PCG meeting will be held in March 2017 in Melbourne.