

**PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP MEETING**  
**27 July 2017**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

The Patents Consultation Group (PCG) met on Thursday 27 July 2017 in Melbourne, below is a summary of the minutes of this meeting provided for public release.

Discussions that dominated the meeting included filing documentation for PCT applications and evidence documentation for opposition proceedings.

The Assistant General Manager, Patent Oppositions and Exam Practice, provided an update from earlier meetings on matters surrounding the translation requirements of Article 19 or 34 amendments for national phase entry in regard to PCT applications. Various issues were raised regarding timing, drawings and publishing. Discussion covered the approaches in other jurisdictions such as Singapore and USA and the need for further clarification of IP Australia's practice. IP Australia will continue to work with members on any future proposals for change which would need to progress through the forward legislative agenda. This would include stakeholder consultation.

Following on from the previous meeting, there were further discussions on the provision of evidence for oppositions. A proposal to treat documents filed with the SGP as evidence was discussed. It was agreed that FICPI and IPTA would seek the views of their members on this proposal and communicate those views to IP Australia.

The Assistant General Manager, Patent Oppositions and Exam Practice also spoke on the filing requirements for opposition evidence and exhibit documents, and some of the difficulties in handling and managing documents during proceedings. A proposal to alter the filing requirements was discussed. Issues of functionality restrictions and compatibility of systems were acknowledged, however it seems that preparation practices were the main cause for inconsistencies. It was generally agreed that the filing requirements should be altered, and any enquiries or assistance with preparing and handling evidence documents can be directed to the oppositions staff in IP Australia.. Further information on office requirements will be circulated when they are finalised.

PCG members were provided an update on legislative activities. This included the deferral of the introduction of the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill. Proposals in the draft Bill will be put on hold until further notice.

The Director of Domestic Policy also updated the PCG on timing for the Government response to the PC Inquiry into Australia's IP Arrangements. The Government response is expected to be released shortly and will be a key factor in the setting of IP Australia's forward legislative agenda. IP Australia will commence stakeholder consultation for any resulting policy and legislative developments. Members remained eager to be advised once the Government response has been released.

PCG Members were also provided with a brief demonstration of a trial version of IP Australia's online policy issues register. Members were informed that there are 60-70 items in the functional version and were invited to provide feedback via the tool when it becomes available. IP Australia will broadcast its availability when it is released to the public.

The next PCG meeting will be held on 23 November 2017 in Canberra.