

**PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP MEETING**  
**26 July 2018**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

The Patents Consultation Group (PCG) met on Thursday 26 July 2018. Below is a summary of the minutes of this meeting provided for public release.

Paul Gardner and Brett Massey – A/g Directors - Domestic Policy and Legislation IP Australia gave an update on Policy and Legislative activities. IP Australia has developed two bills to amend Australia’s IP legislation. Bill 1 included amendments to the patents legislation to implement some Productivity Commission (PC) related reforms. Bill 1 had passed the House of Representatives and is expected to be debated in the Senate in August 2018. The exposure draft for Bill 2 is had been released for public consultation that week.

Catriona Bruce - Head, Patent and Analytics Hub gave a presentation covering the intended purpose of delivering patent analytics reports together with Article 15(5) international-type search reports. Members noted the necessity for a disclaimer which Catriona advised would be included. It was clarified that the Report is a pre-cursor and used to check the overarching document is in the right space and validates the search.

Brendan Bourke – Director, Trade & Policy Projects discussed the EU FTA and advised that the first round of negotiations on IP was held in Brussels. He said the EU text is expected to be published over the weekend. Brendan said that GIs would be a key issue, but they were interested in the views on IP more generally. He also advised that AU has also tabled text but this doesn’t include anything new from other FTA’s and he is happy to share some views, for example, grace period. Negotiations will run for a number of years. Brendan also discussed some patent issues arising in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations.

Brendan also gave an update on Indigenous Knowledge and advised that Consultant Terry Janke had published a paper prepared for IP Australia regarding issues across portfolios on the website.

Members discussed ‘Manner of Manufacture’ and IP Australia is happy to engage further on this subject.

Steven Barker led the discussion on the “Travelling Roadshow” trialling with FB Rice. Members felt it should be more available to single practitioner firms. Steven Barker informed it was being tested with FB Rice for a broader roll out once the format is determined.

The next PCG meeting will be held on November 29 2018 in Canberra.