

**PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP MEETING**  
**6 June 2019**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

The Patents Consultation Group (PCG) met on Thursday 6 June 2019. Below is a summary of the minutes of this meeting provided for public release.

Member noted that submissions from the IP Australia 2019-20 Fee Review public consultation period, which ended on 16 May 2019, will now be considered and work-shopped to explore their viability and impact. IP Australia will continue to engage with customers and key stakeholder groups throughout the fee review process. Following the review, a draft Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) will be made available for further feedback, currently scheduled for December 2019.

Members were provided with an update on IP Australia's current legislative agenda. The timing of the introduction of the *IP Laws Amendment (Productivity Commission Response Part 2 and Other Measures) Bill 2019* depends on incoming government priorities, as does consideration of the inventive step issue. Members discussed reasons for an increase in divisional filings since 'raising the bar' changes were implemented, including the global approach of international applicants, using divisionals as a safety net, lengthy negotiations with examination staff and differences in IP office deadlines. IP Australia requested that members consider top patent policy priorities for action over the next few years.

IP Australia updated members on the outcomes of a recent indigenous knowledge consultation process. A consultation report that summarises all stakeholder feedback, including a thematic summary of the seven roundtable discussions held in regional, urban and remote areas, is expected to be available on the IP Australia website in July. Members discussed the need for education of the attorney profession to deal with applications involving indigenous knowledge. NZIPA advised on mechanisms used in New Zealand to provide further consideration of IP Right applications containing indigenous knowledge.

Members were thanked for their support of the current trial of patent analytics with international-type search reports being conducted by the Patent Analytics Hub. IP Australia encouraged members and their representative groups to provide feedback on the reports to inform an evaluation and business decisions regarding the trial.

Members were made aware of upcoming work to review the IP Australia Customer Service Charter. IP Australia's primary focus is ensuring that it provides new and improved customer centric, digitally driven solutions, while continuing to deliver high quality and timely IP Rights. In July, IP Australia will be formally kicking off a program of work to review our customer service charter in close consultation with our stakeholders. This group is one of the key consultation mechanisms that will be used. One of IP Australia's strategic risks is the failure to meet customer expectations. As such, the agency is keen to ensure the review is conducted in close partnership with customers, to ensure the measures and targets adopted continue to drive outcomes that meet customer needs.

Members also discussed minor amendments to the Terms of Reference and other governance matters to ensure that patent consultation group meetings continue to be an effective way to engage with important stakeholders.

The next PCG meeting will be held in Sydney on Thursday 28 November 2019.