



PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP - MEETING SUMMARY

22 July 2026

The **Patents Consultation Group (PCG)** met on Wednesday, 22 July 2026 via Microsoft Teams and at the Melbourne Intellectual Property Office. The Chair opened the meeting, provided an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed members and guests, and noted apologies. Members endorsed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2026, subject to incorporating comments received.

The **Chair** reiterated the value of open, practical engagement between IP Australia and the profession, including quality workshops and early feedback on policy and practice. He noted upcoming engagement with FICPI Australia and NZIPA, acknowledged IPTA's pro bono consultation programme for First Nations peoples, and advised that the Australian National Audit Office had assessed IP Australia's governance and use of AI in patent examination as largely effective ([Artificial Intelligence Use in IP Australia | Australian National Audit Office \(ANAO\)](#)), while identifying opportunities for further maturity.

IP Australia provided an update on **Computer-Implemented Inventions (CII)**. Revised manual guidance and a response to consultation submissions were published on 3 July 2026, and examiner training was scheduled to support consistent practice. Members welcomed the engagement and improved structure but considered that further refinement was needed. IP Australia will engage with the CII taskforce and work with PCG members on a likely October quality workshop. Members were encouraged to raise individual cases where the guidance may have been misunderstood or misapplied.

IP Australia provided an update on **Indigenous Knowledge** and the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. Australia is progressing domestic treaty-making processes following signature in December 2024. The treaty and National Interest Analysis were tabled in Parliament, public submissions and hearings were completed, and the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties is expected to report in September. Subject to government decisions, legislative amendments to the Patents Act would be developed to implement a treaty-compliant disclosure requirement in the Australian context.

IP Australia provided a **general policy update** on simplified and streamlined IP regulation, planned consultation on AI and the IP system, and recent WIPO General Assemblies. Four measures from the regulatory consultation were included in the Regulatory Reform Omnibus Bill 2026, while patent-specific measures remain under review. Planned AI consultation is expected to address the impact of AI on the IP system, AI innovation and the IP profession.

Members supported the **renewal of Australia's appointment as an International Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty**. The WIPO General Assembly approved Australia's reappointment, and the substance of the arrangement with the International Bureau remains unchanged. Members noted that Australia's continued role has been positive for Australian applicants.

Members discussed **quality workshop outcomes and examination report quality**. IP Australia acknowledged the need for clear reasoning in examination reports and will reinforce expectations through supervising and senior examiners. Updates were also provided on quality assurance activities, including in-flight reviews, targeted quality campaigns and future campaigns on searching, amendments under section 104 and manner of manufacture objections. Members agreed that quality workshops should continue in some form, with the next workshop likely to focus on CII and practical examples developed with members.

Finally, the Chair heard comments from members on a range of matters under "Other Business", including distribution of PCG materials, a project update for Opposition and Federal Court data analysis, the Attorney Direct telephone line, issues with formalities directions and reserved examination, and the best method requirement.

The next PCG meeting is scheduled for 18 November 2026 in Sydney. Meeting Summaries of our Consultation Groups can be found on our website: [Consultation Groups | IP Australia](#). For further information, please contact mdb-patents-consultation-group@ipaustalia.gov.au.