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PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP - MEETING SUMMARY

6 August 2025

The **Patents Consultation Group (PCG)** met on Wednesday, 6 August 2025 via Microsoft Teams and in the Melbourne Intellectual Property Office (MIPO). The Chair opened the meeting, performed an Acknowledgement of Country, and welcomed all participants. Members endorsed the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2025.

Members received a presentation on **AI-Based Innovation in Patent Examination** which detailed how IP Australia continues to utilise and develop AI-based examination tools, highlighting its commitment to safe and responsible AI practices in line with broader Australian Government frameworks. The presentation also covered key topics such as risk-based governance mechanisms and the practical application of AI in examination workflows.

IP Australia is implementing **multi-factor authentication (MFA) on its Online Services portal** to strengthen security, and safeguard intellectual property and personal data against cyber threats. The system will require two authentication factors, including options such as authenticator apps (Microsoft, Apple, Google), MyID, and FIDO2 keys. The rollout, scheduled for **8 September 2025**, will begin with a pilot involving selected attorney firms from 11 August 2025, supported by a communication strategy and customer service assistance. The change affects both self-filer and corporate accounts, new and existing. Shared logins will no longer be supported due to security concerns. To ensure awareness, suggestions were made to issue an official email to all account holders and update the website. For questions or assistance, including to move from a self-filer to a corporate account, customers should reach out to the Contact Centre on 1300 651 010 or via email: <https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/email-us>

In relation to **Indigenous Knowledge (IK)**, work is progressing on integrating disclosure of source into Australia's patent system following the 2024 conclusion of the [GRATK Treaty at WIPO](#), with the first step being its consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in Parliament. For further details, the Indigenous Knowledge team can be contacted on ikproject@ipaustralia.gov.au. A general review of the China-Australia **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** has also been announced, and IP Australia is collaborating with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to understand its implications. The Australian Government has re-engaged with the European Union to resume FTA negotiations, with both parties reaffirming their interest. For further details, the Indigenous Knowledge team can be contacted on ikproject@ipaustralia.gov.au.

In recent **international IP developments**, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), and the European Patent Office (EPO) has agreed to a two-year pilot program, offering Australian applicants more choice in selecting an International Search Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Feedback is encouraged both before and during implementation to assess the value of these arrangements. On **Substantive Patent Law Harmonisation**, the Group B+ Working Group Chair presented a 2024 report showing broad stakeholder support across jurisdictions, with a follow-up questionnaire planned ahead of the next meeting in September 2025. Regarding **Client Attorney Privilege**, a draft agreement was presented in Geneva, and while progress has been made, key differences remain—particularly on whether the agreement should be binding. Stakeholders are being consulted further to help navigate these challenges and maintain momentum.

The draft agenda for the first **PCG Quality Workshop**, proposed at a previous PCG meeting, was discussed and will focus on the topic of Claim Construction. The workshop will feature a presentation from IP Australia's Training Academy and include examples from both litigation and examination. IP Australia will aim to hold quality workshops biannually, with the first planned for late October 2025 with an emphasis on drawing insights from real-world litigation and examination to support practical improvements and potential integration into training. Members also highlighted the value of exploring examiner reasoning in term construction.

The next PCG meeting is scheduled for 13 November 2025 in Sydney, and via MS Teams.

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@ipaustralia.gov.au.

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