



PATENTS CONSULTATION GROUP - MEETING SUMMARY

15 April 2026

The **Patents Consultation Group (PCG)** met on Wednesday, 15 April 2026 via Microsoft Teams. The Chair opened the meeting, performed an Acknowledgement of Country, and welcomed all participants. Attendances were noted. Members endorsed the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025.

The **Chair** thanked the PCG for their involvement in the consultation regarding manual changes in respect of computer implemented inventions and noted his recent attendance at the IPTA conference. He also discussed AI use in IP Australia and the release of a new AI transparency statement. Updates were provided on various aspects of examination functions including: the new search tool available to examiners; changes in the pipeline for WIPO Standard 26; regrouping and renaming of examination sections; the patents group's quality processes; and the availability of the attorney direct hotline.

IP Australia provided an update on **Computer Implemented Inventions (CII)**. Public consultation regarding the manual remains open until 17 May 2026. Following this consultation careful consideration will be given to the feedback with a view to finalising necessary manual changes by the end of the financial year.

IP Australia provided an update on **Indigenous Knowledge** regarding the WIPO treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Traditional Knowledge, which concluded in May of 2024 and establishes a framework for patent disclosure of source requirements. Policy work is ongoing in relation to the introduction of these requirements into the Australian system.

IP Australia provided an update on the Australia-European Union FTA that concluded last month. Australia has agreed to protect geographical indications (GIs), which was a priority for the European Union. A new GI system will be created alongside the existing trademark system. Stakeholder feedback on any draft legislation will be sought before any system comes into place. Further details are available at: [Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#).

IP Australia acknowledged and appreciated the 46 submissions received regarding the proposals in the **Streamlined and Simplified Regulations** consultation. Each of the patent proposals are at an early stage, the feedback is appreciated as the policy development process progresses. The policy team also highlighted the recognition of **EPO and IPOS as International Search Authorities**. This is aimed at providing applicants choice and IP Australia welcomes any feedback on the changes.

Discussions were had in relation to the upcoming **PCG Quality Workshop on the topic of Support and Sufficiency** (s40). It was noted that issues regularly arise in examination, opposition and court matters with the session. Members discussed the benefit of also including discussion of 'best method' in the workshop.

Members discussed the practice of sending reminders roughly six months in advance of examination commencement to provide an **opportunity to amend to avoid excess claim fees**. A new proposal was developed by IP Australia in response to examination section work fronts moving well within the six-month period. Further details are available at: [Update to patent excess claims reminder process](#).

IP Australia shared information about **Regulation 13.1A(1)**, under which a request to withdraw a standard application is ineffective if the request is filed during the three week period before the publication of the application in the Official Journal. This is particularly relevant to divisional applications. Regulation 22.7(1) generally prevents refunds once an application has been published, so if a withdrawal is ineffective, publication still occurs and fees will usually not be refundable.

The next PCG meeting is scheduled for 22 July 2026 in Melbourne in person at MIPO 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@ipaustalia.gov.au.