

## Summary of IPONZ Technical Focus Group

Trade Marks

Date of Meeting: 12 April 2018

Agenda Items	Comments
1. Office update and practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trade Mark filings were up by 11% compared to previous year.</li> <li>- Three more new examiners starting in May 2018.</li> <li>- IPONZ and Singapore to exchange TM Examiners.</li> <li>- Simon Gallagher and two TM examiners will be attending INTA.</li> <li>- GI's – At present 9 Local and 2 foreign GI's</li> </ul>
2. Initiatives IPONZ plans to consider.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fee review for patents and trade mark fees is underway with a fees paper for consultation to be released – when it will be released is unknown at this time.</li> <li>- Operationally, IPONZ is going to look into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Artificial Intelligence (AI)</li> <li>o TM search up grade</li> <li>o Automated Search and Preliminary Advice</li> </ul> </li> <li>- IP Education and Awareness</li> <li>- Having an IP Councillor in China</li> <li>- Pacific Island Policy</li> <li>- Whether IPONZ funds an IP Administrator at Customs in respect of IP Compliance and Enforcement</li> </ul>
3. TM Maori Advisory Committee (MAC) – changes to offensiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In light of recent Maori Settlement deals over the last few years, MAC has changed its approach to offensiveness. MAC will now generally refuse place names or Toanga as being offensive, especially if associated with alcohol or foodstuffs.</li> </ul>

<b>4. TM Maori Advisory Committee (MAC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two new members and is now up to full strength</li> <li>- MAC meet three times a year.</li> <li>- IPONZ is considering allowing substantive examination to continue while at same time being considered by MAC, but will require a change in the case management system in order for this to happen.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Omnibus Bill Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion document on Omnibus Bill to be released in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this year.</li> <li>- Still possible to send any issues to MBIE.</li> <li>- Grace Period for renewals – being looked at but no time change proposed yet.</li> <li>- Options for overcoming expired but restorable trade marks is also being considered.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Section 32</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IPONZ still to finalise guidelines. Are considering a response to the draft guidelines which were considered by the submitter as to being restrictive and possibly outside the scope of section 32.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Conflicting goods and services list</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TM Examiners are using the list now. It is planned to be publically available and IPONZ looking at how this can be done.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Chain of Title of Ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In situations where a change of ownership includes multiple titles, e.g. A to B to C to D, only details of A and D are shown in History, no details of B and C. In order to see all details have to view in the Documents section.</li> </ul>

**Date of Next Meeting: 24 August 2018.**