

Patents Technical Focus Group

Minute Notes

22 February 2011

IPONZ Boardroom

1. Minutes from the last meeting (5 October 2011)
2. Matters Arising
3. Brief IPONZ update
4. *Guidelines for the examination of patents involving computer programs* – Some members weren't satisfied with how the exclusion was introduced and considered that indications were that computer-related inventions were not viewed as a potential issue in the Bill. The appropriateness of using caselaw from other jurisdictions, especially *Aerotel* from the UK, was discussed. Some members also expressed concern that the Guidelines should have gone into the detail of what was and was not 'embedded software'.

The interpretation and progression of caselaw in New Zealand and Australia was considered with an emphasis on the historical reliance of New Zealand decisions upon decisions in other jurisdictions.
5. Returning of evidence by IPONZ was considered by some members to be inappropriate as it was, for example, inconsistent with the processes used by the

courts. It was suggested that IPONZ should retain evidence filed for hearings and the like until all possible proceedings have been completed.

6. Emailing examination reports – future development.
7. Online filing, business as usual
8. Other Business