

A POLICY PROPOSAL FROM THE AUSTRALIAN SCREEN INDUSTRY GROUP

The Australian Screen Industry comprises the following:

Businesses: Film, television, animation and games production companies, post production, digital and VFX companies and other equipment and service supply companies.

People: Writers, directors, producers, actors, cinematographers, designers, picture and sound editors, composers and other production and post production personnel.

Screen Landscape: Feature film, television and online streaming of drama, comedy, documentaries, factual, reality, mobile and games.

The Australian Screen Industry urges bipartisan support from the major political parties committing their support to the development and implementation of a holistic industry policy framework that focuses on supporting the industry into the future.

This bipartisan support would allow the industry to continue to be a significant contributor to Australia's culture and economy while fostering excellence in the Australian Screen Industry.

The screen industry crucially reflects who we are as a culture. It is the way we tell our Australian stories and it is the key medium to tell those stories to our children. The screen industry plays a vital role in reflecting and shaping the evolution of our national identity in an increasingly multicultural society.

A future focussed policy framework, with clear settings and goals would instil confidence in the industry, enabling it to take a long-term view in an environment which promotes confidence and stability, thereby encouraging continued investment in business infrastructure, jobs, skills, and R&D into new technologies and markets.

Key issues that should be addressed include:

- Refinements to enhance the Australian Producer Offset legislation to better align it with domestic and global changes in the production and distribution landscape since the legislation was introduced in July 2007;
- Ensure secure, sufficient and transparent funding for Screen Australia to support the development and production of Australian screen content;
- Ensure secure, sufficient and transparent funding for the ABC and SBS that is dedicated to the development and production of a diverse slate of Australian screen content;

- Maintain and develop relevant legislative settings such as content quotas for screen content production and/or minimum investment requirements in all forms of television production including free-to-air, pay, streaming services and online;
- A commitment to the production and maintenance of children's programs across all platforms for the benefit of all Australian children;
- A commitment to the continued legal protections of intellectual property;
- A commitment to the exclusion of the cultural sectors from the scope of free trade negotiations;
- To support the role of the Location and PDV Offsets in attracting international production activity to Australia and the appropriate settings for its implementation;
- The recognition of the games sector as creators of screen content, and therefore the need for policies to support this sector including access to the Australian Producer Offset;
- The maintenance of fair and flexible guidelines, that regulate the importation of screen industry personnel, maximise Australian jobs, and rely on engagement with all affected stakeholders;
- The recognition that the Australian screen industry people who tell Australian stories are professionals who strive to be able to earn a living on fair and reasonable terms in safe working environments as part of a sustainable industry;
- In an increasingly digital world, support mechanisms must be platform neutral;
- The ongoing development of other mechanisms to support and grow the Australian Screen Industry into the future.

AUSTRALIAN SCREEN INDUSTRY GROUP

Australian Directors Guild (ADG)

Australian Writers Guild (AWG)

Australian Cinematographers Society (ACS)

Australian Production Designers Guild (APDG)

Australian Guild of Screen Composers (AGSC)

Australian Screen Editors (ASE)

Australian Screen Sound Guild (ASSG)

Women in Film and Television (WIFT)

Visual Effects Society (VES)

Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA)

Screen Producers Australia (SPA)