

## **Comments on Draft Program Guidelines for Screen Australia**

New guidelines for investment by Screen Australia in feature films are oppressive. They will serve to strangle the industry, limit producers' imaginations and stifle the commercial operation of the Australian film industry.

The inclusion of the phrase "films must have cultural merit" is in conflict with the desire of Screen Australia to create "commercially successful Australian films."

For all films to be evaluated by Screen Australia is a mistake. The past four years of 'evaluation' by FFC has been an abject failure. Screen Australia should stop evaluating films.

The market door is essential to health of the Australia film industry. It should be reinstated. The amount of the production budget provided by Screen Australia through market door should be increased to 30% (on top of the 35% gained through Offset). No evaluation. Films that gain 35% investment from market place should be funded automatically.

Screen Australia should not intervene in the relationship between producers and their audiences. Producers rely on market place response to grow their companies. It needs to be unfettered. Eliminating evaluation will drastically reduce level of bureaucracy required to run the industry.

Adjusting Application Timing to an ongoing basis is a welcome change.  
Thank you.

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