



PAUL FLETCHER MP

Federal Member for Bradfield
Minister for Communications,
Urban Infrastructure,
Cities & the Arts

MS21-000450

Mr Nicholas Moore
Chair
Screen Australia Board
GPO Box 3984
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Moore

Nicholas

I am writing to outline my expectations for Screen Australia for 2021-22.

I first want to acknowledge the work of Screen Australia in 2020-21, particularly in supporting the screen industry and broader economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Screen Australia has worked effectively to provide support, stability and leadership to the industry in this challenging time. In particular, Screen Australia's management of the Temporary Interruption Fund (TIF) has been instrumental in enabling the Australian screen industry to get back to work, and be a world leader in screen production as we recover from the pandemic.

I would also like to acknowledge Screen Australia's timely response in rolling out the Government's \$20 million Supporting Cinemas' Retention Endurance and Enhancement of Neighbourhoods (SCREEN) Fund. This funding is directly supporting independent cinemas impacted by COVID-19 so they can continue their role in showcasing Australian stories to our communities.

The Australian Government is undertaking a staged process of reform to support the media industry and enhance the range and quality of services and content available to all Australians. This has included changes to the Australian Screen Production Incentive (ASPI) which will increase the Producer Offset rate to 30 per cent for television, retaining the rate at 40 per cent for film, raising expenditure threshold and focusing support to Australian and onscreen costs are fundamental elements of these changes.

To assist the sector to transition to these changes the Government is providing additional funding to Screen Australia of \$30 million over two years from 2021-22 to support Australian film and television drama, children's and documentary content, and \$3 million over three years from 2020-21 for a new competitive script development and screen writing fund. I ask that Screen Australia have particular regard, in allocating this funding, to productions which in the opinion of Screen Australia, may receive a lower amount under the Producer Offset, Post, Digital and Visual Effects Offset or Location Offset, by reason of changes contained in the Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 5) Bill 2021 than would have been the case had this legislation not been passed.

As the Australian Government's primary screen funding body, the business of supporting and promoting the development of a highly creative, innovative and commercially sustainable Australian screen production industry will remain the agency's key focus for 2021-22. I expect that through its core work, Screen Australia will continue to deliver in the areas of industry support and development, screen culture, funding, international partnerships and professional development. In addition, I ask Screen Australia to focus on the following strategic priorities in 2021-22:

- supporting the changes to the Australian Screen Production Incentive, including focusing support on children's content and documentary production;
- supporting productions to secure the strongest pathway to audiences;
- administering the extended TIF to support local film and television producers to secure finance and keep filming, but also to continue to liaise with the insurance sector on potential market-based solutions;
- administering the SCREEN Fund;
- continuing to undertake data collection and research to strengthen understanding of the challenges and opportunities for the sector including the economic value of the sector;
- considering opportunities to recognise the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to Australian society; and
- harnessing the sector's contribution to innovation and the economy.

I note many of these areas are already being actively progressed by Screen Australia. The Screen Australia Board should continue to foster a strong vision for the agency as well as develop clear and achievable objectives for 2021-22 and beyond. With this clear focus, Screen Australia will be well placed to continue to deliver against its vision to inspire, inform and connect audiences with compelling Australian stories.

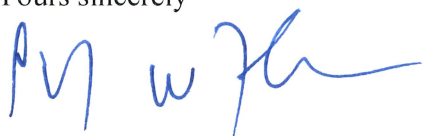
I also ask that you continue to alert my office to any opportunities to engage with or promote local productions, including future funding announcements.

I encourage Screen Australia to continue to work cooperatively with the Office for the Arts and other portfolio agencies in contributing to the Government's policy settings, including on the best ways to deliver important Australian stories and build the capacity of the Australian screen sector now and into the future.

This Statement of Expectations and your corresponding Statement of Intent form an important component of Screen Australia's governance framework. As such, I would anticipate both being public documents. I have written to convey my expectations for 2021-22 to all arts portfolio agencies, and have copied this letter to the Chief Executive Officer of Screen Australia, Mr Graeme Mason.

I wish you and the Screen Australia Board and executive team success in meeting outcomes and objectives for 2021-22.

Yours sincerely



Paul Fletcher

22/7/2021