



The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the House

MC23-065398

Ms Susan Templeman MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
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CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: petitions.committee.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 November 2022 to the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, regarding Petition EN4114, requesting the establishment of a task force to fund and develop the feature film *G.I. Jane 2*. Your correspondence was referred to me, as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

The work of the Australian creative sector, including the screen industry, is essential. It's essential to our community, what it is to be Australian and to our economy. After extensive engagement and with the support of the Australian creative sector, I was pleased to release *Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place* – Australia's cultural policy for the next five years, with the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP on 30 January 2023.

This landmark new policy is shaped around the five goals of Creative Australia, established when the Hon Julia Gillard was Prime Minister. *Revive* is available at www.arts.gov.au/culturalpolicy.

Consistent with *Revive*, the Australian Government provides significant support to the Australian screen industry, recognising the important role it plays in shaping Australia's national identity. The Australian Screen Production Incentive is the Government's primary mechanism for providing support to the screen industry. It provides tax incentives for film, television and other screen production in Australia and is available in three streams:

- The Producer Offset, administered by Screen Australia, entitles a production company to a 40-per-cent rebate on qualifying Australian production expenditure on eligible feature films and 30 per cent on other formats (television, online, DVD) for productions with significant Australian content.
- The Post, Digital and Visual Effects (PDV) Offset, administered by the Office for the Arts in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (my department), provides a 30-per-cent rebate on qualifying expenditure for productions undertaking PDV production in Australia. The expenditure threshold for eligibility is \$500,000 expenditure on activities reasonably required to perform the PDV production in Australia.

- The Location Offset, administered by the Office for the Arts in my department, provides a 16.5 per cent rebate on qualifying Australian production expenditure for eligible productions with a minimum Australian spend of \$15 million.

In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government announced the Location Offset will increase to 30 per cent from 1 July 2023. This announcement delivers on the Government's commitment in *Revive*, Australia's Cultural Policy for the next five years, to encourage investment by large-budget screen productions in Australia. The increase to the Location Offset will secure Australia's competitive position in attracting large budget screen productions to film here and maintain our world-class reputation for filmmaking. It will also benefit the entire screen sector by providing greater employment and development opportunities for our skilled screen workers.

Revive also committed to introducing requirements for Australian screen content on streaming platforms. This will make sure more Australian shows and movies are seen across streaming platforms. These requirements will be implemented as part of the Government's broader reforms to media legislation and are the joint responsibility of the Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, and myself as the Minister for the Arts.

Screen Australia is the Government's primary agency for supporting Australian film, television, documentary and digital media makers, through direct investment in screen development and production. Screen Australia offers funding to support the development, production and marketing of Australian screen content, as well as for the development of Australian talent and screen production businesses. More information is available at www.screenaustralia.gov.au/funding-and-support, or the agency can be contacted by email at info@screenaustralia.gov.au or by phone on 02 8113 5800.

These measures will build on the significant support the Government already provides for the production of screen content in Australia. In 2021-22, a total of \$756 million was invested in the screen sector by the Government through direct funding or incentives. They will allow us to produce even more Australian stories told by Australians, and even more content filmed in Australia using the craft and skills of our dedicated screen professionals.

Thank you for bringing Petition EN4114 to the Australian Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

TONY BURKE

10 / 8 / 2023