

Statement of Expectations by the Minister for the Arts and Sport for Film Australia Limited 2007-2008

This statement outlines the expectations of the Government and enhances the communication framework between Film Australia, myself and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

The Australian Government recognises the value of the arts in contributing to the development of Australian culture and identity. Film Australia plays an important role in achieving this goal.

Priorities

I expect Film Australia to:

- work with DCITA and other portfolio agencies to implement the Government's Screen Industry Support Package;
- continue to implement the Government's 2004 election commitments, specifically to produce a 10-part series of high quality documentaries on Australia's history;
- continue an effective and efficient operation of the National Interest Program;
- continue to support the Australian film and television industry's documentary sector under its CSO;
- engage with issues relating to the impact of new technologies on the documentary sector; and
- make adjustments to Film Australia's programs as necessary to meet changing industry priorities, in particular through ensuring that programs place a strong

focus on developing sustainable businesses.

Implementation of the Screen Industry Support Package

My expectations in relation to Film Australia's role in implementing the Screen Industry Support Package are that it will:

- work closely with DCITA, the Australian Film Commission and the Film Finance Corporation Australia on the range of transitional activities prior to the establishment of the new Australian Screen Authority and ensure minimal disruption to existing programs.

It is also my expectation that Film Australia will:

- be responsive to Government and to the Parliament while fulfilling Film Australia's functions as outlined in the *Constitution of Film Australia Limited*;
- manage the affairs of Film Australia with diligence and in compliance with all relevant legislative requirements and applicable Government policies, including the *Constitution of Film Australia Limited*, the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and the *Corporations Act 2001*;
- work cooperatively with DCITA and other Portfolio Agencies to effectively fulfill Film Australia's role as one of the nation's largest producers of television documentaries and educational programs;

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- keep DCITA and myself fully informed in a timely manner of Film Australia's activities and of any significant events relating to Film Australia's business;
- respond to requests from my office and DCITA in a timely manner, and work with DCITA as my primary source of advice;
- develop and maintain effective relationships with key stakeholders, in both the public and the private sectors;
- take active steps to secure revenue from sources other than Government, in order to increase the revenue base for Film Australia;
- effectively implement and maintain the highest standards of corporate governance, including the development of effective

strategic planning documents containing relevant and measurable performance indicators, risk management strategies and a performance monitoring framework;

- ensure that board members are aware of their roles and responsibilities and are participating in ongoing professional development and self-assessment;
- provide for my approval a Statement of Intent (SOI) within two months of receipt of this SOE. The SOI should state how Film Australia proposes to meet the expectations of Government, including identifying key performance indicators; and
- provide a brief governance report for discussion at the formal biannual governance meetings.

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