

## Statement of Expectations by the Minister for the Arts and Sport for Film Australia Limited

### Context

Film Australia Limited (FAL) is a wholly-owned Commonwealth company in the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio. FAL operates under the *Constitution of Film Australia Limited* (updated to October 2005) to fulfil the following functions:

- to make, promote and distribute a diverse slate of high quality National Interest Programs by commission or otherwise;
- to provide the widest possible distribution and exhibition of National Interest titles and of independently produced documentaries acquired for distribution;
- to collect and effectively manage the audio-visual materials recorded under the National Interest Program;
- to manage and provide facilities and services to the low budget production industry; and
- to support the independent documentary production sector.

FAL is also expected to:

- provide support to the Australian documentary sector through a range of services and facilities, under its Community Service Obligations (CSO);
- manage a collection of video and still images reflecting a century of Australia's history;
- create projects for educational resources;
- market both National Interest Program productions and independently produced documentaries to Australian and international broadcasters, and to libraries, schools, universities and community groups;

- operate a film and television production facility and provide screening venues, a sound stage, production offices, and editing and transfer suites that are used by Film Australia and low-budget independent productions; and
- produce the Australian History Initiative, a collection of landmark high quality productions on Australia's history.

As the Minister for the Arts and Sport, I have Ministerial responsibility for arts and sport agencies.

FAL is a wholly-owned Commonwealth company subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

Statements of Expectation and Statements of Intent are intended to outline the expectations of Government and enhance the communication framework between FAL, myself and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (the Department).

### Timing

This Statement of Expectations (SOE) for FAL covers the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. This SOE should be placed on FAL's website within two weeks of presentation to FAL. It is envisaged that this SOE will be reviewed in May 2007, following the announcement of the 2007-08 Budget, to reflect the Government's priorities for FAL at that time.

A Statement of Intent (SOI) from FAL in response to this SOE should be provided to me for approval within two months of receipt of this SOE, wherever possible. In responding, the SOI should state how FAL proposes to meet the expectations of Government, including the identification of key performance indicators.

## Expectations

It is my expectation that FAL will:

### General

- be responsive to Government and to the Parliament while fulfilling the FAL's functions as outlined under the *Constitution of Film Australia Limited*;
- work cooperatively with the Department and other Portfolio Agencies to effectively fulfil the FAL's role as one of the nation's largest producers of television documentaries and educational programs; and
- develop and maintain effective relationships with key stakeholders, in both the public and private sectors.

### Communication

- keep me fully informed of the FAL's activities and alert me to any significant events relating to FAL's business in a timely manner;
- provide key information and documentation to the Department in parallel to the information being provided to me; and
- respond to requests from my office and the Department in a timely manner.

### Financial Management

- manage the financial affairs of FAL with diligence and in accordance with all relevant legislative and other requirements; including the Constitution of Film Australia Limited, the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- take active steps to secure revenue from sources other than Government, in order to increase the revenue base for FAL.

### Corporate Governance

- comply with all relevant corporate governance requirements, including those contained in FAL's constitution, the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and the *Corporations Act 2001*;
- effectively implement and maintain the highest standards of corporate governance, including through the development of strategic planning documents and performance monitoring frameworks; and
- I encourage FAL to use the expertise within the Department to assist FAL with meeting its compliance and governance requirements.

### Policy / Priorities

In addition, I also expect FAL's key priorities for 2006-07 to include:

- the continued implementation of the Government's 2004 election commitments, specifically to produce a 10-part series of high quality documentaries on Australia's history;
- provision of input as necessary to the broad ranging review of government support measures for funding films in Australia;
- continued effective and efficient operation of the National Interest Program;
- continued support to the Australian film and television industry's documentary sector under its CSO;
- implementation of the recommendations from the Uhrig Assessment of FAL;
- issues affecting the digital content sector; and
- engaging with issues relating to the impact of new technologies on the documentary sector.

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