

AUSTRALIAN SCREEN COUNCIL

13 July 2006

MEDIA RELEASE

INDUSTRY WELCOMES GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Australian Screen Council today welcomed the release of the Issues paper for the Federal Government's Review of Australian Government Film Funding Support.

The Council acknowledged that the timing of the review was crucial, given that the screen production industry faces serious technological and commercial challenges over the next five to ten years. It is vital that the Government's current programs and support measures are examined and calibrated to ensure that the industry is able to both meet these challenges as well as take advantage of the opportunities that are opening up in the audiovisual field.

The Council particularly welcomed:

- the comprehensive nature of the review, which will consider all of the Government's current support mechanisms in a holistic manner, rather than each one individually;
- the high priority being given to the development of options for improving the effectiveness of screen-related tax incentives;
- the focus on future funding options for the industry, which will allow consideration of both existing and emerging screen content, and the appropriate mechanisms to support them on an ongoing basis;
- the recognition that industry development continues to be a central objective underpinning Government support to the sector.
- the focus on future success and industry sustainability.

The ASC will be coordinating a unified industry response to the review. The council has developed a formal process of consultation and negotiation with both the industry and Government agencies, with the aim of developing agreed industry positions for consideration by Government.

Information about the Screen Council

The Australian Screen Council is the peak industry body for the screen production industry. It was established in December 2005 following wide consultation and represents the interests of the industry on issues affecting the future of screen production in

Australia. The Australian Screen Council provides a forum where ASDA, AWG, MEAA and SPAA can reach agreement on key industry issues.

Its objective is to increase the size and sustainability of the industry and the relevance of the industry and its product to Australian and international audiences.

Its foundation members include the Screen Producers Association of Australia, the Australian Writers Guild, the Australian Screen Directors Association, and the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

For more information contact:

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