
From: Jonathan Geraghty
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 12:07 PM
To: Fletcher, Paul (MP) <Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Green Paper Response.
To Hon Paul Fletcher MP,

The Australian film and television industry needs your support.

We are requesting:

- **The regulation of streaming services – 20%** of locally sourced revenue should be invested in new Australian content
- **The retention of the Gallipoli clause** - allows feature filmmakers to claim for Aussie story elements shot offshore
- **The retention of current expenditure thresholds for feature-length content at \$500,000** – allows films and feature documentaries with a budget of over \$500,000 to be eligible for the 40% producer offset

Last September, the Morrison Government announced significant changes to local content rules on free to air commercial television and introduced a points system that Screen Producers Australia (SPA) estimates will cause **an annual decline in drama production of \$100 million.**

The only way to rectify the contraction in our much-loved screen industry is to impose regulation on streaming services that have prospered during the pandemic. Streamers, like Netflix and Amazon Prime, earn \$1.7 - \$2 billion annually from Australian subscribers, but pay little tax here in Australia.

Based on international precedent, streaming services should have to **invest 20% of their locally sourced revenue in producing new Australian content.** SPA estimates that this will create 10,000 jobs and stimulate the industry growth that Minister Fletcher desires.

The screen industry welcomed the Government's recent announcement that the feature film producer offset will be retained at 40% and that the TV offset will increase to 30%.

We do, however, request that you protect the **Gallipoli clause.** The **Gallipoli clause** was named after David Williamson's *Gallipoli* and allows film producers to claim for expenditure on story elements that are shot offshore. It facilitates international co-productions. Without it, iconic films like *Gallipoli* and many documentaries may not be made today.

We also seek to retain the **current expenditure thresholds for feature-length content at \$500,000** (instead of being increased to \$1,000,000) to ensure our low budget scripted and documentary feature filmmakers are eligible for the 40% producer offset. We need to protect these vulnerable but vital genres.

Thank you for backing Australian stories and storytellers. #MakeItAustralian

Yours faithfully,
Jonathan Geraghty