

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns around the changes that are currently being considered in the film and television industry regarding Australian content obligations for broadcasters and tax incentives both on the free-to-air and the streaming platforms.

I work full time in the industry in the Stunt department (yes, it's a real job!) and hope to do so in Australia for many years to come. I work as an Assistant Stunt Coordinator and Stunt performer and have been involved in the titles "*The Fast and the Furious*" and "*The Leftovers*", as well as many locally grown series like "*Wentworth, Offspring and Ride like a girl*". I am extremely lucky that over the past 5 years I have been able to work full time due to the amount of work that has been available to me.

Female representation in the Australian stunt industry is growing rapidly in a world that has previously been very male dominated. I was the first female to come through our current qualification framework to achieve my role-and we are yet to have a female head of department. I am sure you can appreciate that in an industry where we present such a high level of risk-the journey to attain this role is very specific and in depth. We do have a number of great Australian female Stunt Coordinators (not currently qualified to work in this capacity in Australia) who are highly sought out throughout the world and represent us at the highest level. They however choose to work overseas where they can guarantee that they will continually be employed, and this trend is growing. We lose our top tier of the workforce (both male and female) as there are more solid opportunities overseas where people currently are assured the tax breaks offered that will ensure work.

Another issue that we face is that we have a whole generation of stunt performers to rival any other country in the world. Every year we have multiple nominations in the World Stunt Awards from Australian productions.

We receive calls to go overseas for the large Marvel, Fast and furious and Disney franchises and here in Australia we are desperately trying to keep our very talented stunt performers in the country when there are very tempting prospects overseas. Currently we lose our top stunt actors and stunt crew as we cannot provide them with the opportunities they may receive elsewhere, and then import overseas performers when they are required on major motion pictures to fill the gaps they have left behind. I am happy to mentor and motivate our young stunt ladies in every way possible to prevent this happening-but this would be hard to do when there are no job opportunities available to them.

I feel so fortunate to be able to work alongside some greatly talented colleagues across all departments of the film industry, and their CV's never cease to amaze me. We really do have so many Australians that represent our industry at the highest level around the world, making the highest grossing movies and tv shows on our screens. The general public would have no

idea exactly just how many Australians are responsible for the “American” films or shows that they watch. It baffles me that Australia is not capitalising on this more. I don't understand why we would encourage these talented people to take the overseas jobs that they are being offered rather than asking for their knowledge to educate our next generation. I do not understand why we are not encouraging overseas productions to come and film in Australia- bring the work to our shores rather than losing our industry to other countries. We are currently building a great new Sound stage in Victoria, but then we are not willing to ensure that our Australian stories are being told- or even inviting other countries to come and make their stories in our country when it is set up to do so.

Reducing the requirement for Australian quotas in conjunction with reducing the tax incentives will obviously limit the number of productions filming in Australia, and thus the opportunity for work in Australia. This will force all of these highly talented people to take their skills overseas. They are already sought after and head hunted and will leave a massive gap in our workforce.

This is partially a selfish plea. I love Australia and currently I have been able to remain here and conduct my work. I grew up in the UK but have chosen to base my life in Australia and the lifestyle is the best in the world. I would love to stay here- but if there are no work opportunities, I am sure you understand the difficult choices I have to make. If I want to create a world where I am not talked about as a female Head of department- but just as a Head of Department, I not only need the work for myself, but also for the next generation coming through so that I have some performers to work for me.

At a time in which we are rebuilding following COVID I urge you to apply significant change to the Australian quotas and to ensure that the tax incentives for other countries to film here rival or better our overseas counterparts. I urge you to ensure that incentives and obligations are applied equally across platforms so that all commercial content providers including streaming services, invest in new Australian content.

Please help me, and the rest of our department be able to apply our skills on Australian shores and continue to turn down the overseas offers so that we can pass our skills to our Australian youngsters and continue to tell great Australian stories,

Yours Sincerely,