

David Trethewey
DTFX

Hello,

I am a 40 year veteran of the Film Production sector. I have worked in just about every department. I am currently a Special Effects Supervisor with a freelance business in film, TV, and Advertising production. The bulk of my work comes from mid budget Australian films, and TV and Streaming series. I employ up to ten freelance workers depending on the nature of the production.

This review presents a great opportunity for the government to profit from the latent potential of Screen Production to support existing jobs and create thousands of new jobs, and bring significant Export income to the economy AT NO COST to taxpayers.

If the government brings investment support into line with our major competitors in the UK and Canada, we would see up to \$1 Billion per annum or more in Export dollars flow into the economy. This new export income would be spent on wages, accommodation, building materials, plant and equipment hire, travel, location fees and much more.

The taxes collected on the spend pays for the scheme and returns 5% to government coffers - effectively 5% interest on a loan that is made only after the money is spent and the taxes collected. (1)

This 5% could then be used to fund local productions. \$1 billion in export earnings would create \$50 million in additional funds to support local film production. This would be a significant boost to local film production.

This mechanism already exists - it's currently called the Location Offset - it just

needs to be made competitive.

Re-branding it as the Retrospective Export Investment Loan Scheme - Film Production (REILS) would free it from the idea that government is providing grants to film. It is a self-funding mechanism export investment loan - no export income, no outlay.

If the REILS is competitive, it will give Foreign Productions certainty.

Certainty will allow them to commit to spending their budgets in Australia - and their export dollars flow in.

This would create thousands of new high skill jobs and support thousands more in the wider economy - in building supplies, catering supplies, equipment hire, production, wages and much more.

Certainty would mean there would be competition for existing production space stretching out 3-4 years in advance.

This demand would create an opportunity for Infrastructure Investment on new Film Studios, and new equipment such as cameras and lights and trucks and workshop space and materials. Increased infrastructure means more opportunities for foreign films to invest here, further supporting jobs and growth.

And all of these benefits come AT NO COST to Forward Estimates. The outlays only accrue AFTER the export dollars are spent in the economy and the taxes collected. (1)

I commend a competitive REILS scheme to the Inquiry. It's all upside...

Kind Regards, David Trethewey

(1) Source: House of Reps Report on the inquiry into the Australian film and television industry Tabled: 7 December 2017

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Supporting documents:

This submission has been lodged via the [Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance](#).