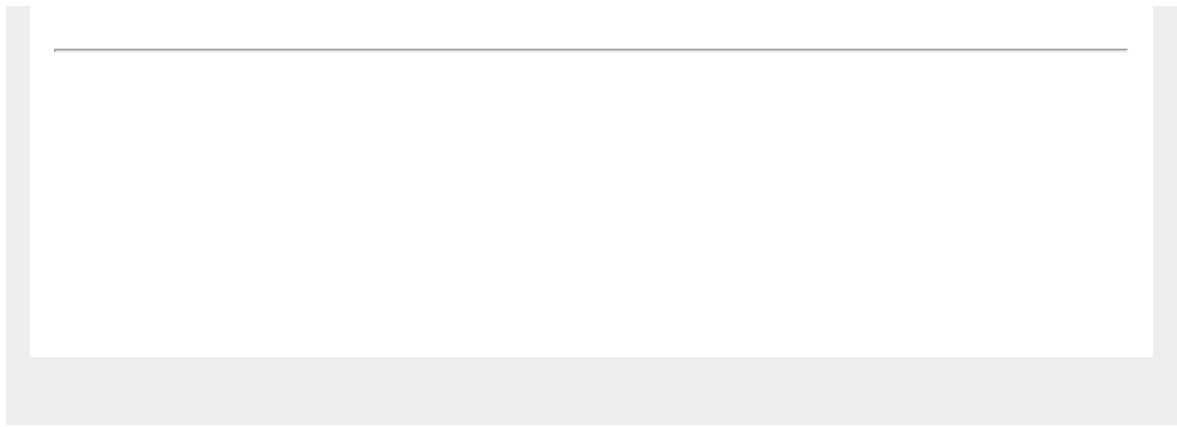

Thomas Brian

As a freelance lifting technician in the Australian film industry I am concerned about the potential abolition of mandatory local content quotas for Australian broadcasters. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that our industry is at once vulnerable and essential. Whilst under lockdown, many Australians have found solace in our stories through their screens. From home, We have bonded together through shared experience and thought about what it means to be an Australian. Our stories are part of that collective identity and the removal of local content quotas puts that identity under threat. Without direct incentive, I fear that many broadcasters will abandon producing local stories and opt instead for the more economic strategy of importing content for domestic consumption. If this should happen, in addition to the immediate devastation of our industry and hard-working Australians losing their careers, the Australians watching at home will be served a bland homogeneity of content that does not reflect who we are and who we aspire to be as a nation. I believe Australians deserve better. We need to be challenged in our thinking and celebrated in our uniqueness. It's true that producing local content is an uncertain and expensive exercise, but Australians have never been a risk averse people and some things matter more than just dollars and cents. Our stories, individual and collective, matter more than money. A local content quota for all broadcasters in the Australian media landscape will make sure those stories endure.

Thomas Brian

I wish for my submission to be anonymous: No

I wish for my submission to be private: No



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