

Draft Strategic Framework for the New NTFO Comments by Rachel Clements

I would like to thank the NT Film Office for the opportunity to respond to the Draft Strategic Framework.

In the main, I am supportive of the paper and believe it includes potentially exciting outcomes for the NT Film Office and the NT industry.

My comments are as follows:

- I like the proposed new film office name of "Screen Territory".

Vision

- I support the 5 points in the draft Vision statement.
- I assume that "Screen Territory is the Northern Territory Government's primary yet arms-length entity" is the confirmation that the film office will attempt to become a statutory authority or commission, as was a popular comment in the industry feedback from the first phase of this revisioning process. I hope this is the case.

Mission

- Regarding "nurtures select high-potential emerging NT talent", I think the word "select" could be changed to "competitive" or be deleted.
- "A direct, hands-on approach in the incubation and facilitation of creating content through collaboration with the assistance of world-leading producer mentorships" needs clarification. It is a concern to me if the government is moulding or dictating content.

Values

- "Hands-up rather than Hand-out approach" needs clarification.

Critical Success Factors

- I hate to say it but I think a 3:1 return within 3 years of investment is wishful thinking but it would be lovely to be proved wrong. I agree with the aim to receive returns on investment to NT-resident content creators, but am concerned that a financial return on "support" is noted. This is vague as support comes in many ways.
- The aim of "a 75% annual engagement rate within the NT screen-media community" needs clarification.
- In "Internal Processes", it would be appropriate to include a statement about transparency of spend. This follows on from a comment in the draft Values Statement, ie "accountability, transparency and efficiency in process and systems".

In the lead-up to the third and final stage of the revisioning process, in which the industry will not be invited to contribute, I would like to take the opportunity to put some actions 'on the table' for consideration.

- Screen Territory to guarantee the security of the Producer Offset, allowing the producers to approach banks and other lending facilities.
- Screen Territory provides development and production funding for projects outside of the workshop initiatives through competitive funding rounds.
- Funding for travel – trade missions, conferences and markets, and (due to the remoteness of the NT and the distance between broadcasters, investors and distributors) a contribution to travel costs for interstate meetings be introduced.
- Marketing loans and/or grants be introduced for competitive completed productions.
- Screen Territory to consider following policies of other national and state film bodies regarding Screenright royalties being retained by producer and recoupment of royalties by Screen Territory ceasing after a nominated period of time.
- Screen Territory to support, encourage and build on the existing industry, and foster new and emerging practitioners
- Screen Territory to promote Indigenous IP protocols for all productions that include Indigenous content including those filming on Indigenous lands, and aim to ensure that Indigenous people, communities and intellectual property are not exploited.
- Screen Territory and industry to lobby the NT Government to create incentives for outside and NT producers to film in the Territory. These could include payroll tax exemption and subsidies towards the employment of NT personnel.
- Screen Territory to continue developing screen culture and continue to ensure that regional NT is provided with the opportunity to host touring film festivals such as the Sydney Travelling Film Festival.

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