



MEDIA RELEASE

Last Chance for Response to Territory Screen Futures

The NT Film Office is seeking comments by 22 September 2006 in response to its Discussion Paper about directions for future support for the Territory screen industries.

NTFO director Penelope McDonald said the discussion paper was aimed at engaging the NT film and screen industry in particular, as well as the wider community, as the first phase in strategic planning for NTFO's role in the future success of the NT Film, Television and Digital Media Industry.

"The NTFO was set up three years ago and we are now creating a five and 10 year vision for the future of the industry," Ms McDonald said.

"The NT screen industry is in a terrific position to build on the recent successes of award-winning Territory productions such as *Ten Canoes*, *Dhakiya vs the King*, *Greenbush* and the soon to be released *Rogue*.

"We can build on this wave of success utilising our comparative advantages of unique locations, indigenous cultures and proximity to Asia.

"We can play a leading role in the Australian screen industry by creating an international screen mecca right here in the NT.

"We all know the film and screen industry is good for the Territory.

"Territorians like seeing the Territory on film and television because it celebrates who we are.

"Territory stories shown around Australia and the world are the best and most economical promotion for our Territory.

"Tourists first hear about the Territory through movies and television."

"Some of the major discussion points include the possible development of a Screen Development Agency outside of government that would focus on industry training, professional development, low-budget production and contract opportunities with the industry.

"Another major focus of the discussion paper is the screen grants program and how it is best utilised to support the film and screen industry.

"The NTFO receives more applications than it can financially service so we are looking at options such as creating public and private partnerships to further support those funding applications."

Ms McDonald said meetings held in Darwin and Alice Springs with industry representatives had been very positive since the discussion paper was released in June.

She said the discussion paper could be located at <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/arts/ntfo/publications/pdf/discussion.pdf>

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8951 1162

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