

**Media Release:**

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## **Northern Territory Screen Industry Up for Discussion**

A discussion paper developed in consultation with industry, individuals and government regarding the future planning of the Northern Territory screen industry was released today, Friday 19 December 2008.

Northern Territory Film Office Director Penelope McDonald said the discussion paper pulls together input from the screen sector and associated stakeholders gathered over the past couple of months.

“It is hoped that reading this paper will stimulate deep thinking and dialogue about the future of the screen sector in the Territory,” Ms McDonald said.

“Territorians, and people around the world, love to watch stories that are stimulated by our distinctive landscapes, cultures and way of life – the fact that the feature film *Australia* is set in the Territory shows national and international interest in what we have to offer.

“More recently the Territory has been the location of choice for feature films including *Balibo*, and Territorian Warwick Thornton’s debut feature *Samson & Delilah*, whilst factual programs filmed in the Territory are shown on screens all around the world.

“The Northern Territory has great potential for a screen industry that is innovative and makes a significant contribution to the Territory’s economy.”

Ms McDonald said that in order to realise this potential, the Northern Territory Government through the Northern Territory Film Office, is undertaking a major planning process, which will result in new priorities for the activities of the Office.

“The visioning and strategic planning process is being led by a steering committee, chaired by internationally experienced film and television producer Brian Rosen, and other members who represent the interests of the Northern Territory screen sector and government.

“We are looking forward to hearing feedback and comments from the screen media sector as well as the public in relation to consultant Doug Macnamara’s recommendations for the NTFO.”

Ms McDonald said following discussion and input Mr Macnamara and the NTFO will be developing a five year strategic framework for discussion with the steering committee.

“The final stage of the process will be the development of a draft strategic plan for the Northern Territory screen media industry and the NTFO,” Ms McDonald said.

Comments should be submitted in writing and received by close of business Friday 6 February 2009. Comments will be posted online as they are received.

For further information and to download the discussion paper go to [www.ntfilm.com.au](http://www.ntfilm.com.au).

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8952 5222**

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