

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

This Senate enquiry submission is regarding “Treasury Laws Amendment (Delivering better financial outcomes and other measures) **Bill 2024 – Chapter 6 Location offset and producer offset for Films.**

Dear Senators

I would like to express my support to the Government’s announcement to increase the location Offset as part of the 2023/2024 Budget.

I would request Senate Economics Legislation Committee report back as soon as possible and recommend the Location Offset Legislation is passed by the Senate prior to 30 June.

The film and television industry is plagued with uncertainty, making it extremely difficult to plan ahead for the people that work in the sector.

Having a competitive Location Offset is absolutely vital to attract foreign productions and investment into the Australian film industry.

As a professional in the film and television industry, I find myself directly affected by the outcome of this Bill.

Attracting foreign films to be shot in Australia provides job and training opportunities to Australian crews and allow us to continue showcase the high level of competency and creativity that we are internationally known for.

Due to the larger budgets that these productions have, a larger number crew are employed.

A substantial number of crew are trainees and crew with little experience starting in the industry. Large productions offer a great opportunity for the next generation of screen professionals to learn the necessary skills to ensure a steady pool of talent for future years.

Larger productions also allow experienced crew to showcase their talent, sharpen their skills and upgrade tooling, making working in Australia more appealing for future productions as guarantees world class crews with the added value of our pro-active attitude towards the work.

Australian productions also benefit from this training and exposure to bigger budget films, as crew uses techniques and solutions applied in the mentioned films in the Australian made content.

If the Production Offset Legislation does not pass the senate the Australian film industry will decouple itself from the international film market as it will not be competitive compared to other filming destinations.

Lastly, I strongly believe that investing in the Australian Film industry brings a large number of benefits other than the obvious creation of employment and training. It also helps to create the image of Australia as a dynamic and creative country and destination. Helps tourism by showcasing locations to the wide world. It also affects a large number of other economic sectors that benefit from supporting and supplying the film industry.

After the uncertainty of COVID and strikes overseas that have affected productions in Australia directly the film industry is struggling to have continuity and experienced crews are finding increasingly difficult to continue working in the industry.

Loosing experienced crews is a big problem, as we cannot tackle large productions without them. The people that work in film are resilient and passionate about their work, but many of us are on our last legs in the industry as we are tired of uncertainty and the stress that working in film brings to us.

The “feast or famine” cycles that characterizes the film industry has taken its toll in mental health, family relationships and makes it very difficult to have any kind of financial plan or forecast

By passing this Bill, the Australian Government will actively contribute to a more stable and reliable film industry.

With regards

Manel Lopez

