

31 March 2017

Spectrum Films Pty. Ltd.
Level 2
Building 61
Fox Studios
Driver Avenue,
Moore Park. 2021

Mr Luke Howarth MP
Chair, Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts

Dear Mr Howarth

Inquiry into the Australian film and television industry

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts as part of its inquiry into the Australian film and television industry.

My business Spectrum Films employs 9 FTE employees, and works with many freelancers and is based in Fox Studios, Moore Park, NSW

Spectrum Films was established in 1964 as a post production house for the film and television industry.

Many key films have come through our doors over the years - Newsfront, My Brilliant Career, Caddie in the early years through to later productions like The Piano, Animal Kingdom, The Railway Man, Gods of Egypt, The Great Gatsby, Lion, Hacksaw Ridge with many more in between. We have also serviced the television industry with productions like Farscape, Packed to the Rafters, Sea Patrol and currently Top of the Lake, The Secret Daughter and Murder Uncovered.

We've catered for international productions like Red Plant, Mission Impossible 2, The Matrix, Wolverine, The Truman Show and most recently Alien: Covenant.

What are our difficulties in the current cultural and economic climate?

We like many others are finding difficulty in sustainability. Recent example is the shutting of Deluxe post services in Australia. Production companies, and the television networks who fund local content, find competing with streaming services like Netflix and Amazon, who have no known agenda for local production, are under stress financially. The impact on their budgets has a flow-on effect for companies like ours. And we have consistently invested back into the industry, in both television and film productions.

There is also a piracy issue, with films like Wurmwood and The Little Death, in which we invested, being downloaded illegally.

We have an infrastructure that is vital to the film and television industry in this country.

We suggest that there is a review of the incentive structure for international productions to not only have certainly around the location offset, but also to have incentives to keep post production in this country, like the UK and Canada.

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