

Submission to Australian Parliament on

Factors contributing to the Growth & Sustainability of the Aust Film & TV Industry.

As a key Business owner in the Aust Film &TV Industry, & with 38 yrs experience working in the industry I would like to raise some critical issues for the Parliamentary Committee's consideration, particularly in light of the expanding film & TV facilities in Asia & NZ.

Our Australian Film Industry lacks infrastructure.

It has grown from a cottage industry & relied on utilising cheap industrial spaces on a short term basis. Large Film companies such as Fox & Warner Bros have built studios [i.e. large warehouses with offices] but we lack the in house facilities available in Hollywood & UK. Support facilities are critical in maintaining credibility as a Film Production destination.

Current suppliers may not be in the industry much longer [see below]

To compete internationally we need to look at ways to keep Production costs down, expand established businesses & to encourage new ones in a very challenging environment.

The govt could greatly assist our industry at low cost by expanding the business hub concept, utilizing redundant govt owned industrial property, & making it available at reasonable cost with potential long term leases.

Business model development and leadership is also lacking in our industry.

We need to look at new types of businesses, joint ventures, co ops, NGO's, crowdfunding etc. The Govt agencies brief applies mainly to Film Producers. It needs to be broader to develop the whole industry, not just trickle down from Producers film budgets.

Advice & resources applied to this could greatly assist the development of the future industry. This has been a major hurdle in industry development, certainly in my experience.

Threats to our industry:

- **Lack of interest in owning infrastructure.** Large studios, Production Companies & technicians want infrastructure to be available, but are not prepared to take on the cost or the responsibility. TV stations had those assets & have divested them.
- **Loss of affordable industrial property to lease.** Long term trends are to redevelop industrial properties for high rise residential. Facilities need to be within ½ hr of the main studio
- **Ageing workforce.** Many key stakeholders in the industry are aged 50 to 65.
- Is there a succession strategy in place for those businesses, stock, equipment, technicians ?
- **Barriers for younger people in the industry:** high cost of study, housing.
- **Erratic work.** Crew increasingly expected to work for free in order to gain future jobs
- **Crew wages** - have not gone up in 20 yrs
- **Megastudio developments** such as Wanda Studios, Qingdao, China [30 studios, 165 ha, \$8.2 billion] also Peter Jackson's NZ projects.