



# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM







## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of lutruwita/ Tasmania. In paying our respects to their Elders, past and present we extend this to acknowledge those who did not live to make Elder status.

We acknowledge their connection to the land, sea, sky and waterways and their unbroken commitment to care for Country for over 40,000 years. By committing to listen deeply to Story and be respectful of Country in our collaborations with Tasmanian Aboriginal People we demonstrate the value of the history, culture and strength of the lived experiences within the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

We will continue to honour their stories, songs, art, and culture, and their aspirations for the future of their people and these lands.

Image: Gordon River,  
courtesy Tourism Australia

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Cover image: Analiese Gregory in *A Girl's Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Wild Cooking*.  
Photo by Tim Noonan

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## Project Development 2023

This program supports the development of linear Tasmanian screen content. It supports Tasmanian creativity and Tasmanians' stories, with the goal of increased local screen production in the future.

Through this program, Screen Tasmania aims to drive projects towards securing additional market finance and a production outcome, to increase work for Tasmanian screen practitioners and share Tasmanian stories with audiences. Screen Tasmania reserves the right to vary these guidelines as necessary. In exceptional circumstances, Screen Tasmania also reserves the right to waive some requirements.

Projects eligible for support include live action or animation for adults and children:

- one-off projects such as feature films and telemovies (drama or documentary)
- multi-episode long-form scripted projects (series and miniseries)
- factual projects, including documentary (series and stand-alone one-offs), and
- short form scripted and factual projects for online platforms.

Under this program, Screen Tasmania can provide funding for two stages of a project's development process, across four categories.

In most instances, applicants may only receive funding once per stage. In all cases, a proportion of the development budget is for an experienced script editor or creative producer to assist in the development process. Screen Tasmania can help identify such a person, if needed.

Funding is delivered as a recoupable grant at a level that matches the format, the development plan, and the nature of market interest in the project.

- Intermediate stage funding of up to \$20,000 (recoupable)
- Market-attached funding of up to \$30,000 (recoupable), or

- Short-form series booster of up to \$25,000 (non-recoupable).

Screen Tasmania can also provide funding to develop a slate of projects, which matches the financial contribution of the marketplace, capped at \$30,000 (recoupable).

Recoupable grants are repayable plus a 10 per cent premium on day one of principal photography, but only if the project enters production. If the project enters production but is not substantially made in Tasmania, a 50 per cent premium is payable.

Funds are competitive, with projects in quarterly rounds, with each application considered on its own merits. Screen Tasmania cannot guarantee applicants will in every case receive the maximum funding available.

### 1. Eligibility criteria

For any queries about the eligibility criteria, contact Screen Tasmania's Development Manager, Evan Maloney, on 03 6165 5070 or [evan.maloney@screen.tas.gov.au](mailto:evan.maloney@screen.tas.gov.au)

Applicants may be asked to supply documentation to support their eligibility claims, as part of the application process, or as part of an audit process. Information supplied by applicants may be subject to authenticity checks using third party software.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria.

#### 1.1 Applicant

The applicant must meet the eligibility criteria detailed in the General Guidelines, and must meet the following.

An applicant must:

- be, or have attached to the project, a Tasmanian key creative such as a writer, producer or director (expatriate and non-Tasmanians should refer to the General Guidelines for eligibility details)
- be, or have attached to the project in a key creative role, an experienced

practitioner as defined in the General Guidelines (short-form series must at minimum have an emerging practitioner), and

- have control of copyright of the project as defined in the General Guidelines.
- For Market-attached and Slate Development, documented evidence of marketplace attachment, including the level of financial support, must be provided.

With the exception of slate development, all applicants must demonstrate that the project has been developed to a reasonable level (beyond early-stage development) before applying.

Projects that have previously been unsuccessful in securing Screen Tasmania funding are eligible to reapply if the project has changed significantly, or if Screen Tasmania specifically invites such an application. If resubmitting, the applicant must clearly demonstrate how the project has changed.

Projects that have unsuccessfully applied twice are not eligible to reapply. Projects that have received development funding from another Screen Tasmania program (such as a special initiative) may still apply to this program.

## 1.2 Short-form series booster: non-recoupable grant up to \$25,000

This funding is available for short-form series projects and is for the scripting and/or production of a portion of the project, to be used to raise marketplace interest.

Screen Tasmania can fund multiple applications for a single project under short-form series booster, but the combined funding cannot exceed \$25,000.

Examples of activities funded are:

- the development of pitch materials related to financing
- writers' room and the development of scripts
- market and financing travel
- budget and schedule preparation
- proof of concept or pilot production, and
- producer fees (not exceeding \$3,000?).

The funding cannot be used to purchase equipment or software, or for reformatting of an existing project.



Mabel Li in *The Tailings*.

### 1.3 Intermediate stage funding: recoupable grant up to \$20,000

Intermediate stage funding is principally for developing long-form screen projects to the level that they can attract marketplace support. The creative team is expected to have completed early-stage development of a project before applying for intermediate support.

Support is available to prepare pitch documents, series bibles, draft scripts and/or for travel to engage with the market (capped in line with the Industry Development program's business travel guidelines).

Preference is given to projects that can demonstrate marketplace interest at the intermediate stage.

### 1.4 Market attached funding: recoupable grant up to \$30,000

Market attached funding is limited to long-form projects that have financial support from third party marketplace participants (such as a broadcaster, distributor or other government agency). It is not available for short-form series projects.

Support is offered exclusively to applicants who can demonstrate marketplace investment in the development of episode outlines, draft scripts and non-draft expenses related to financing a project. While market attached funding is available only once, Screen

Tasmania reserves the right to allow multiple applications in exceptional circumstances (for example, evidence of significant and ongoing marketplace support).

For market attached funding, applicants may apply for support for development costs including:

- development of pitch materials, series bibles, and scripts
- marketing consultancies
- market and financing travel
- budget and schedule preparation
- preliminary casting costs
- production of audio-visual material
- producer fees (not exceeding \$3,000).

### 1.5 Slate Development – recoupable grant up to \$30,000

Where a Tasmanian producer or production company secures actual financial support from the market to develop a slate, this stream of support can match fund the marketplace interest.

This is the only stream of support that can be provided to early-stage projects without fully conceptualised ideas. Support is available to prepare pitch documents, series bibles, draft scripts and/or for travel to engage with the market (capped in line with the Industry Development program's business travel guidelines).

Oliver Cassidy in *Franklin*  
Photo: Francois Fourie





## 2. Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria.

Applications for Production Support funding will be assessed by the Screen Tasmania Expert Advisory Group, and the final funding decision made by Screen Tasmania, acting on the STEAG's advice.

The primary considerations for assessment of an application are:

- the strength and originality of the concept/story idea and the quality of the writing as evidenced in the submitted written materials
- the mix of skills, diversity of backgrounds, and experience of the creative team, and the likelihood that their experience will advance the project
- the target audience, where the project will fit in the marketplace and development of a comprehensive market strategy
- the quality and rigour of the development notes, and
- the feasibility of the project – that is, the likelihood of the project advancing into production.
- the extent to which the development and production of the project would provide economic benefits and job creation for the state, career development for Tasmanian cast and crew, and leverages investment from outside the state

Applications will be competitively assessed based on the quality of information provided by the applicant. Ensure all information is included when submitting their application. Note that not all eligible applicants will receive funding.

## 3. Timeframes

Ordinarily, applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

Generally, rounds are quarterly, opening shortly after a Screen Tasmania Expert Advisory Group meeting, and closing eight weeks later.

You will be consulted by Screen Tasmania's Development Manager during the assessment process.

## 4. Application process

Screen Tasmania uses an online grants management system called SmartyGrants. This system is easy to use and accessible via mobile phones, tablets, laptops and personal computers.

Applicants without internet access should contact Screen Tasmania to discuss alternative methods.

1. Applicants should read the guidelines, The General Guidelines and Terms of Trade carefully before starting an application. The application form is designed to help structure applicants' responses to then eligibility and assessment criteria.
2. This is a competitive, merit-based process. Meeting the eligibility criteria will not automatically result in a successful application.
3. Applicants should complete and lodge an application online via SmartyGrants from the Screen Tasmania website [www.screen.tas.gov.au/funding](http://www.screen.tas.gov.au/funding)
4. Typically, Screen Tasmania will commission a report from an external, independent script reader – typically a script editor, writer or producer – to aid the STEAG in assessing the application. Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to the report, with the response also provided to the STEAG. This process serves two purposes, it provides the decision makers with expert opinion on a project's strengths and weaknesses, and it provides applicants with a free market-focused assessment, which will assist in developing the project further, regardless of the outcome of the application. Applicants should note that Screen Tasmania may opt not to seek such a report (often because of budgetary constraints) and should not take that as a suggestion that the application is being viewed in a positive or negative light.

5. Screen Tasmania may request additional information after an application is submitted. This information will also need to be submitted through SmartyGrants. Applicants should, however, ensure that all supporting documentation provided is accurate and is attached correctly before submitting.
6. Following the submission of the application via SmartyGrants, applicants will receive an automatic receipt of their application. This receipt will include details of the application and a unique application ID.
7. Applications will be processed by Screen Tasmania and assessed by the Screen Tasmania Expert Advisory Group (STEAG) at its next quarterly meeting.
8. The decision on whether to approve the application is made by Screen Tasmania, acting on the advice of the STEAG shortly thereafter.
9. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application once the decision has been made.
10. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided feedback on the application and will be able to meet with Screen Tasmania staff to discuss the decision.

## 5. Resubmitting a project

If an application is unsuccessful, the applicant is welcome to apply with the same project if it has changed significantly in a later round. However, you should note that:

- The applicant will need to demonstrate how the project has changed since it was previously unsuccessful.
- If an applicant applies twice with the same project and the application is rejected both times, an applicant is unable to apply again with that project, unless specifically invited to by the STEAG.
- If resubmitting a project, the applicant is advised to take account of feedback received from Screen Tasmania.

## 6. Appealing a decision

The appeals process is designed to ensure that all applicants have been treated fairly and consistently in applying for Department of State Growth financial support. The Department will consider appeals relating to administrative process issues in applications.

All requests must be in writing and should be addressed to the Executive Manager, Screen Tasmania.

Your request must be received within 28 days from the date of the Department of State Growth notifying you of the decision about your application.

For further information about the process, contact [opscas@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:opscas@stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

## 7. Contracting and payments

Screen Tasmania will issue a Grant Deed with successful applicants. Standard terms are outlined in the Terms of Trade.

Once the Grant Deed is executed and any conditions precedent are met, the applicant should issue a Tax Invoice to Screen Tasmania in accordance with the Deed.

Funding will be provided in two tranches:

1. 80% on execution of the Grant Deed, and
2. 20% on delivery and acquittal.

### 7.1 Other matters

Providing incorrect bank account details may result in funds being paid to an incorrect account. These funds will need to be returned to us before we attempt another payment. This process may result in significant delays in funding being received. Additionally, we cannot guarantee that funds paid to an incorrect bank account will be returned to us.

If a recipient:

- does not complete the activities or tasks required under the funding agreement,
- does not use any or all of the funding provided,



the recipient will be required to return some or all of the funds to the department.

Similarly, if

- the information provided to us is found to be false or misleading, or
- the recipient's situation changes in a way that prevents completion of the agreed project

the recipient will be required to return some or all of the funds to the department.

## 8. Taxation and financial implications

Grants and Investments distributed under the program attract GST. Payments to successful applicants, who are registered for GST, are increased to compensate for the amount of GST payable. Where GST applies to the funding, a valid tax invoice must be supplied by the successful applicant to the department.

The receipt of funding from this program may be treated as income by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

It is strongly recommended that, prior to submitting an application, potential applicants seek independent advice from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the ATO, about the possible tax implications for receiving the funding.

Information on invoices can be found on our Business Tasmania website [www.business.tas.gov.au/manage\\_a\\_business/invoices](http://www.business.tas.gov.au/manage_a_business/invoices)

## 9. Acquittal

An acquittal is a statement made by a recipient, confirming that the funding was used as per the funding agreement.

In accordance with the Grant Deed, an acquittal form will be provided to recipients, asking for information about the activities and expenditure. Evidence such as, statements, reports, and deliverables are also required to support the acquittal.



Dylan Hesp in *A Very Street Racer Christmas*  
Photo: Michael O'Neill

## 9.1 Failure to complete an acquittal

Failure to lodge a valid acquittal by the due date will result in the recipient being required to return the funding to the department. In this situation the department will invoice the recipient.

## 10. Administration and contact details

The program will be administered by Screen Tasmania and the Department of State Growth on behalf of the Crown in the Right of Tasmania. Contact [evan.maloney@screen.tas.gov.au](mailto:evan.maloney@screen.tas.gov.au) or Screen Tasmania on 03 6165 5070.

### 10.1 Note

All applicants must take care to provide true and accurate information. Any information that is found to be false or misleading may result in action being taken and funds, if already provided, will be required to be repaid to the department.

## 11. Publicity of assistance

The Department of State Growth disburses public funds and is therefore accountable for the distribution of those funds. As part of the accountability process, the department may publicise the level of financial assistance, the identity of the recipient, the purpose of the financial assistance, and any other details considered by the department to be appropriate.

Screen Tasmania will engage with successful applicants and other relevant parties to organise an appropriate method and time for the announcement of support.

## 12. Right to information

Information provided to the Department of State Growth may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

Little J & Big Cuz, Ned Lander Media





### **13. Confidentiality**

The Tasmanian Government may use and disclose the information provided by applicants for the purposes of discharging its respective functions under the Program Guidelines and otherwise for the purposes of the program and related uses.

The department may also:

1. Use information received in applications for any other departmental business.
2. Use information received in applications and during the delivery of the project for reporting purposes.
3. Use third party software to review information received in applications to confirm its authenticity.

### **14. Personal information protection**

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act 2004.

This information may be accessed by the individual to whom it related, on request to the Department of State Growth. A fee for this service may be charged.

### **15. Disclosure**

The following applies to all successful applicants:

- Despite any confidentiality or intellectual property right subsisting in the funding agreement or deed, a party may publish all or any part of the funding agreement or deed without reference to another party.
- Please note that all obligations under the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 (Tas) and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cwlth) still apply.

### **16. Disclaimer**

Although care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty, express or implied, is given by the Crown in Right of Tasmania, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information it contains.

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