



DISCOVERY & SCREENWEST 'SHARK BITES' GUIDELINES

Program overview

Shark Bites is a joint factual initiative by Discovery Channel Australia and Screenwest to reveal the next generation of Australian shark stories for Discovery's Shark Week in 2017.

Screenwest, in partnership with Discovery Channel, are calling for factual/factual entertainment ideas that can work in the short form space. Ideas can focus on any aspect of West Australian shark culture, ranging from the traditional to the non-traditional. From the latest technology to the pioneers and mavericks to the impact on the local communities, to the unexpected.

Strong emphasis will be placed on new ways of telling stories in the Shark space, so be bold, unconventional and extraordinary!

This initiative will see Discovery Channel commission up to five projects of 6-8 minutes in duration to be repurposed as a one hour documentary to premiere on Discovery's Shark Week (December) 2017.

Funding available

Successful applicants may be offered up to a maximum of \$40,000 per project, with a total of up to \$200,000 available for the series.

Producers are invited to submit multiple submissions.

Timeline

January 2017:

Discovery Presentation & Submission Round Up

- Discovery Channel & ScreenWest will host a Discovery Channel & Shark Week presentation/brief for WA producers & creatives where the Shark Bites brief will be explained in detail, and to meet with and discuss ideas with local producers.

Monday 27 February 2017:

Submissions Close

Mid-March 2017:

Selection & Commission Process

- Discovery Channel & Screenwest will review the submissions, with a view to progress any potential ideas to through to commissioning. Once agreed upon, the producer(s) will be contacted and enter a commissioning period.

May-August 2017:

Production

October 2017:

Deliver to Discovery

December 2017:

Projects air

PO Box 3275, East Perth, Western Australia 6892
30 Fielder Street, East Perth Western Australia 6004
Tel: +61 8 6169 2100 Toll Free: 1800 463 043
email: info@screenwest.wa.gov.au www.screenwest.wa.gov.au

Eligibility

An application must first meet the following eligibility criteria in order to be competitively assessed for funding through this initiative:

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements as set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application. Screenwest's funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a project.
3. Be a resident Western Australian Producer/Production Company or creative.
4. Be in good standing with all previous Screenwest funds and programs. Applicants that have an outstanding acquittal report and/or deliverable(s) or have not fulfilled their contractual obligations relating to prior Screenwest funding are not eligible to apply unless an alternative arrangement is agreed with Screenwest prior to application. Applicants should contact Screenwest directly for advice on their specific situation.

Please note: if a project is successful we may require an additional executive producers to oversee the project.

The following projects will **not** be supported:

1. One off or blue chip documentary concepts
2. Long form series
3. Overtly sensationalized shark stunts.

Screenwest will not fund projects that contain material that will bring, or is likely to bring the WA government or Screenwest into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavourably on Screenwest.

Terms of funding

Funding will be provided as a grant. Successful applicants will enter into a written Production Grant Agreement (PGA) with Screenwest and Discovery Channel specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive payments.

Special Conditions

Discovery will be given a one (1) year licence period for each Film, which includes:

- Exclusive unlimited Television Rights worldwide for a period of one (1) year from first TX date;
- Ability to acquire a licence of an extension of the licence agreement; and
- Exclusive Free Streaming Rights and Free Download Rights worldwide for a period of six (6) months from first TX date.

Discovery will be granted the exclusive option to commission any further program based on a Film in accordance with the terms of the Discovery Agreement.

Any relevant chain of title documents will be requested and must be provided to Screenwest as part of the contracting process.

Failure to fulfill acquittal and/or meet deliverable requirements as specified within the funding agreement is a breach of contract. If contractual obligations are not met, Screenwest has the right to recoup funds already paid to the applicant and it may disqualify the recipient from being eligible for future Screenwest funding until outstanding funds are paid back and the matter resolved with Screenwest.

How to apply

Applicants will need to submit the following:

1. A completed Discovery Channel & Screenwest Shark Week 2017 Initiative Application Form.
2. A short synopsis (1/2 page)
3. A treatment or overview of the project.
 - a. We do not expect a fully flushed out concept, just the bones of an idea that demonstrates it can be developed further. **This may include a new format, new talent, access to a leading shark centre or task force. If successful, you may be asked to supply more information on your project.**
4. A Short Production Methodology:
 - a. If your project is commissioned, we would want to understand how you would intend to bring your project to life – the scope, the team, the timings, etc.
 - b. production schedule, with appropriate milestones and/or delivery dates (as delivery needs to be by October 2017, please ensure you are able to deliver the project by then).
5. CV's (max one page) of the key creatives/principal personnel.
6. Any additional relevant supporting creative materials that you think will strengthen your application.

If your project is selected to be commissioned, additional material (ie A-Z budget) will be required.

Applicants must ensure all requested material is complete and submitted together. Applications that do not include all requested material may not be accepted for assessment.

Assessment criteria

Screenwest Management and Discovery Channel representatives will assess eligible applications competitively and against the following criteria.

These representatives will consider all of the application materials provided, with a specific focus on the following:

1. The innovation and quality of the project idea(s); its uniqueness of voice, and potential to stand out in a competitive landscape.
2. The project idea having potential Discovery Channel audience appeal.
3. Meeting Discovery Channel programming requirements i.e. must attain a G classification and be a maximum of 6-8-minutes in length.
4. The potential of the producer or key creative being able to deliver a quality project within the proposed budget and timeframe.
5. Strength of the Production Methodology, including the scope, the team, the timings.

As assessment is a competitive process, a selection and commission is not assured even where an application meets the above criteria.

Screenwest will take into consideration whether the applicant has a number of concurrent outstanding projects in development or production that may impact on the quality and timely delivery of further projects as part of its assessment of the application.

Screenwest seeks to reflect the diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through projects funded and practitioners supported. The funding panel will take into consideration diversity elements of a submission during the assessment process.

Closing date

Applications must be received no later than 5:00pm Monday, 27 February, 2017.

Submitting an application

Emailed applications

Applications are to be emailed to funding@Screenwest.wa.gov.au. Applicants should forward all required application materials in a single email. Application materials **are not** to be emailed directly to individual staff members.

For emails larger than 8MB, send via Screenwest's Hightail Account by following this link: <https://www.hightail.com/u/Screenwest>.

Hard copy applications

Post applications to:

Attn –Development Team
Screenwest
PO Box 3275
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Hand deliver applications to:

Attn –Development Team
Screenwest
30 Fielder Street
EAST PERTH WA 6000

Screenwest recommends that mailed applications are sent via registered post. No responsibility is taken for unregistered mail.

Application receipt confirmation

An application receipt will be emailed to the applicant within two working days to confirm that Screenwest has received the application. **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Screenwest if an application receipt has not been received within this timeframe.** Application material(s) will not be returned by Screenwest.

Program contacts

Wendy Simmons
Development Coordinator, Screenwest
E: wendy.simmons@screenwest.wa.gov.au
T: (08) 6169 2113
Toll free: 1800 463 043 (WA country callers only)

For specific content related enquiries please contact:

Thierry Bled
Thierry Bled
Executive Producer, Discovery Networks
E: Thierry_Bled@discovery.com
T: (02) 9506 2146

Applicants should note that consultations can be in high demand. Consequently, it is best to telephone or email the program contact for an appointment or general advice well before planning to submit an application. Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to discuss their applications before applying.