



Drama Production Investment Fund Guidelines (valid until 30 June 2017)

Supporting original, creative and market based feature, television dramas and narrative cross-media projects with strong Western Australian outcomes and broad audience appeal.

All guidelines are to be read in conjunction with the Screenwest Terms of Trade.

What is the fund?

The Drama Production Investment Fund provides production financing for feature films and television drama with strong market attachments and narrative cross-media projects with significant 3rd party funding and broad audience reach.

How much is available?

Funding up to a maximum of \$800,000 is available for each project to WA based Producers or interstate and internationally based Producers in a Genuine, Official Treaty or other acceptable Co-Production relationship with a credited WA based Producer.

Up to a maximum of \$500,000 is available to non-WA Producers where they have strong WA creative elements in place, in particular Writers and Directors.

Total funding per project is calculated by a combination of Base Funding plus a number of Funding Incentives.

Screenwest Investment funding of \$200,000 or below is considered a grant.

Producers and/or production companies can only access up to a maximum of \$1,600,000 in any one financial year across all drama production funds excluding special initiatives; however the Screenwest Board has the discretion to prioritise Producers that have not received production funding in that financial year or projects that have substantial WA outcomes.

In extraordinary circumstances the fund can also provide loans to cashflow reputable market attachments only where it can be proved that the commercial sector cannot accommodate this type or level of finance.

Deadlines

There are approximately four rounds per year.

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are also announced in the Screenwest e-newsletter. You can register [here](#).

Applications must be received no later than 5pm on the closing date.

Who is eligible?

- Credited Western Australian (WA) Production Companies
- Credited non-WA Production Companies in a Genuine Co-production Partnership (as defined in the Screenwest Terms of Trade) or
- Official Treaty Co-production or other acceptable Co-production relationship with a credited WA Production Company.

Screenwest will also accept applications from credited non-WA Producers who represent a bona fide film or television production company with a demonstrated track record or whose principals have a strong track record in film, television and /or media production. In this case the project must demonstrate strong WA economic and/or creative outcomes, such as story, writers and directors.

The Screenwest Board prioritises applications from WA Producers or Co-Producers which are in a Genuine Co-production Partnership or Official Treaty Co-production.

The applicant/s must meet the requirements of the Screenwest Terms of Trade.

What projects are eligible?

The following projects are eligible for investment, grant or loan under this fund:

- feature films
- television drama - series, mini-series, telemovie, animation series and children's series and
- narrative cross-media projects.

Projects must have market attachment, either for:

- theatrical release
- television broadcast on free to air or pay/cable television or
- in the case of cross-media projects a significant proportion of the budget must be sourced from the private sector and/or market and must have a strong market-driven distribution/business plan.

Applicants must also present a marketing and distribution plan for Australian domestic and Rest of World (ROW) sales.

Where television projects have received a multi-platform commission (360° commissioning) the additional components may be considered for funding through this fund provided they make up part of the initial application.

Screenwest does not fund retrospectively and it is expected that a substantial amount of production and/or some of the post production will be undertaken in WA.

Applications for Post-Production Funding are eligible where a production has received market or significant festival interest or support by way of a presale and/or a distribution agreement at rough cut stage. Funding is to be used to help meet the costs of post-production yet to be undertaken (at the time of offer by Screenwest). Production Companies will need to show that any deferred payments, options or clearances have been paid or have been funded. Screenwest will not fund retrospective deferrals. It is expected that Producers will also make an application to Screen Australia for support.

What is the Base Funding?

Base Funding is calculated on 10% of the Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) of a project up to \$400,000.

For interstate or internationally based projects **without** a WA Producer in a Genuine, Official Treaty or other acceptable Co-Production, Base Funding is calculated at 5% of the Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) of a project up to \$400,000.

Additional funding is available through the Screenwest Funding Incentives below.

What are the Funding Incentives?

Funding Incentives represent additional equity provided on top of the Screenwest Base Funding. Eligibility for funding is based on the project meeting the criteria of each Incentive while the final quantum is at the Board's discretion. In assessing applications, the Board's decision will be based on the general assessment criteria, the specific criteria for each Incentive and key Western Australian outcomes including:

- Amount of Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE)
- Industrial, Business and Cultural outcomes for the Western Australian Industry
- Key WA creative attachments
- Value of WA Employment and
- Market strength of the project and likelihood of returns.

1. WA Producer or Co-Producer Incentive

Up to a maximum of \$100,000 is provided if the project is being produced solely by a WA Producer or if a WA Producer is attached in a Genuine or Official Treaty Co-production with an interstate or international Producer.

2. WA Production Company Industry Development Outcomes Incentive

Up to a further \$20,000 will be awarded where the project, as determined by Screenwest, demonstrates significant Industry outcomes including:

- The WA producer owns 100% of the rights or an equal pro rata share of the rights with other producers in a co-production.
- The WA producer was significantly instrumental in the development and raising of the finance for the project.
- Development of the WA company (eg. in terms of forming strategic alliances or deals with new partners, international sales agents and/or distributors, and/or allows the applicant to produce a project in a new genre and/or an improved business arrangement that has not previously existed for the applicant) and
- Significant digital innovations being produced in WA (eg. an associated 'serious' game, online and cross-platform opportunities, digital effects etc.) unless Screenwest has provided additional funding through any other of its programs for this purpose.

3. WA Directors Incentive

For projects with a WA Director, Screenwest can invest up to \$50,000 for Feature Films and up to \$75,000 pro rata for Television Series where more than one WA Director is attached.

4. WA Authorship and Indigenous Incentive

Up to a further \$50,000 is awarded at the Boards discretion on the strength of the project meeting a number of the specific elements below which define the cultural significance of the project to WA:

- The content is derived from, or profiles a significant work, character or event specific to WA either historically, artistically, scientifically and socially.
- A recognisable WA setting.
- WA authorship and/or adaptation.
- A significant WA Indigenous cultural importance in terms of Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP rights – see definition in Terms of Trade Glossary) or
- Other significantly identifiable WA element in the content of the production.

5. Key WA Heads of Department Incentive

For projects with Key WA Heads of Department up to a further \$50,000 can be invested to help cover their fees, depending on the skills needed and the relevant priorities at the time of application.

This Incentive covers the following roles only:

Line Producer, Production Manager, Director of Photography, 1st Assistant Director, Production Designer, Script Supervisor, Gaffer, Key Grip, Sound Recordist, Location Manager, Make-Up Supervisor, Hairdresser, Editor, Mixer, Post Supervisor, Costume Designer, Unit Manager, Safety Supervisor, Composer, Senior Production Accountant and 2nd Unit Heads of Departments (Director, Director of Photography and 1st Assistant Director).

Visual Effects: Lead Animators, Animation Supervisors, Technical Directors, and 3D Modellers/Riggers.

6. Travel and Accommodation Incentive

Screenwest can invest up to 10% QWAE or up to \$50,000 where:

- WA projects are shooting outside the Perth metropolitan area
- Interstate/International Productions are shooting in WA.

Funding is not provided where other regional funding incentives have been accessed.

7. Post Production Incentive for WA Post

The Post Production Incentive for West Australian Post means that Screenwest can invest up to \$70,000 in Post Spend only in the following areas:

Edit, Sound post, Online, Grade, CGI, Music Composition, Music Recording, and Sound Mixer.

Other Conditions

Terms of Trade

The criteria for funding projects and details of the contracting processes and Screenwest's requirements are outlined in the Screenwest Terms of Trade.

Screenwest may withdraw its funding offer where in the opinion of Management the key elements of the project have changed significantly or fundamentally from those approved by the Board.

In general, funding offers are valid for a period of 6-months after which the offer may be withdrawn or extended at Management's discretion for a limited time.

Administration Fee

For grants and investments, Screenwest charges a 2% administration fee up to a cap of \$5,000. The 2% is calculated on the total approved funding from Screenwest.

Where Screenwest provides funding in the form of a loan, the applicant will be required to cover Screenwest's legal fees up to a cap of \$5,000.

Screenwest does not charge interest or an administration fee on loans.

Production Investment Agreement (PIA) Attachments

It is a requirement of funding where an applicant receives Screenwest funding of \$100,000 or more to employ WA attachment(s) on their project in consultation with Screenwest.

Attachments must be paid no less than 80% of the position's minimum award rate based on a 50 hour week as per the current Motion Picture Production Agreement, or \$800 per week (whichever is greater).

The Attachment position cannot be used to replace a crew position on the production. The attachment should receive an appropriate credit for their work on the project. Potential attachments must be discussed with Screenwest prior to employment, and will be subject to the Skills Development Professional Attachments and Internships guidelines.

Where applicants receive the following funding they will be required to budget for attachments at the following level:

- \$100,000 to \$299,999 – at least \$4,800
- \$300,000 or more – at least \$9,600

The costs of the attachment(s) must be included in the budget submitted to Screenwest.

Assessment process

Screenwest Management prepares the applications for assessment. All applications are assessed competitively. Funds are limited and demand on Screenwest's resources outweighs its ability to assist all applicants, hence funding is not automatic even if an applicant meets the criteria.

The assessors make funding recommendations to the Screenwest Board, who make a final recommendation to the Minister for Culture and the Arts for approval.

Additionally the assessors and the Board take into consideration how well each project meets the Funding Incentives outlined in these guidelines. The Board also considers how the project aligns with the relevant strategic initiatives as set out in the Screenwest Strategic Plan.

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.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into an Agreement with Screenwest. The terms of the agreement will depend upon whether the funding is in the form of a grant, investment and/or loan. For more information on the terms of these agreements please refer to the Screenwest Terms of Trade.

Submitting your application

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are published in the Screenwest e-newsletter. To register for the newsletter go [here](#).

All application materials must be submitted by 5:00pm on the specified closing date.

Please ensure you allow plenty of time to submit your application in case of unanticipated problems as late applications will not be accepted.

Emailed Applications (preferred)

Applications should 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 Screenwest staff members.

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

Hard copy applications

Post applications to:
Attn: Funding Administration Officer
Screenwest
PO Box 3275
EAST PERTH WA 6849

Hand deliver applications to:
Attn: Funding Administration Officer
Screenwest
30 Fielder Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

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 forwarded 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 contact

Cristina Pozzan
Production Investment Manager

E: cristina.pozzan@screenwest.wa.gov.au
T: (08) 6169 2118
Toll Free: 1800 463 043 (regional callers only)

www.screenwest.wa.gov.au

Please note that just prior to a closing date 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 the advertised closing date