



# West Coast Visions Guidelines

## Program overview

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Screenwest's West Coast Visions initiative is a screen industry development program that provides production funding for low budget features that are to be produced in Western Australia.

Screenwest is committed to creating a development pathway for Western Australian creative teams. Screenwest invests \$750,000 of production funding into one low budget feature film intended for theatrical release each year under the West Coast Visions initiative.

West Coast Visions is designed to uncover, inspire and develop local talent and skills. The initiative supports talented and motivated writer/director/producer teams with distinctive visions who can best utilise this initiative to fulfill their professional potential.

To be competitive, applicants will need a well-developed, budget-savvy and marketable feature film surrounded by a team that can deliver the creative and logistical challenges of the project submitted.

To be viable, the applicant producer needs to have adequate experience, or have an experienced executive producer attached. The director needs to be able to show samples of work/short films that display the ability to direct this project.

There is no cap on the budget, however this initiative is aimed at low budget features. The producer must demonstrate firm evidence of how the balance of funding and investment will be raised and clearly identify the audience/market potential.

The film can be shot on film, HD or video and can explore any genre or period, as long as the budget credibly reflects these choices.

## Funding available

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There will be one (1) round per financial year. Successful applicants may be offered up to a maximum of \$750,000. The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

## Eligibility

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

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application. Screenwest's development funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a project.
3. Have at least one Western Australian key creative (i.e producer, director or writer) credited in this position for the first time on a theatrically released feature film.

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](mailto:info@screenwest.wa.gov.au) [www.screenwest.wa.gov.au](http://www.screenwest.wa.gov.au)

- Meet a minimum of six (6) points out of a possible 13, with at least two (2) of the points coming from the producer, writer, or director under the below system:

#### POINTS ALLOCATION TABLE

Position	Points allocation for a WA resident	Position	Points allocation for a WA resident
Producer(s)	2	Costume Designer	1
Director	2	Editor	1
Writer(s)	2	Sound Post	1
DoP	1	Vision Post	1
Production Designer	1	Composer	1

#### Please note the following clarifications for the above point allocations:

- An individual is able to receive a maximum of two (2) points. For example, if the filmmaker is a writer/director, only two (2) points can be attributed to them.
- The maximum number of points that can be attributed to a position is the number stated in the above table. For example, a project that has two WA producers attached will receive a maximum of two (2) points.
- If any of the above credits are being shared with a non-WA resident(s), half the available points will be allocated to the WA resident(s).
- To receive a point in Vision Post, the team must commit to spend a minimum of 50% of the post-production picture budget – excluding the editor’s fees – in WA with one or more Western Australian residents or Western Australian resident companies.
- To receive a point in Sound Post the team must commit to spend a minimum of 50% of the post-production sound budget in WA with one or more Western Australian residents or Western Australian resident companies.
- All other crew members will be expected to be WA residents unless otherwise agreed upon by Screenwest management.
- Please note that although the number of points determines eligibility it is not the sole criteria for assessment.

In addition to meeting the above criteria, the project must:

- Be a well-developed feature film intended for theatrical release.
- Be achievable in Western Australia within a year time frame.

Be in good standing with all previous Screenwest funds and programs. Applicants who 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.

If an application has been unsuccessful in receiving support in the past, it cannot be re-submitted to Screenwest unless it has been substantially changed, developed or reworked. A document must be included with the application listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application. Screenwest may not accept a re-submitted application if the Development Director determines the project has not changed substantially.

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

### **Terms of funding**

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Funding is provided as an investment. Successful applicants will enter into a written agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive payments.

It is the Producer's responsibility to obtain and renew (i) the entire copyright in all material commissioned and/or acquired by it for the development of the Project, (ii) all necessary consents to permit the development of the Project, and (iii) all necessary consents to permit the Project to be produced and exploited.

**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**

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Prior to submitting an application, it is preferred that the applicant discuss the application with the program contact.

There is a two stage application process.

#### **Stage One – Submit application**

Applicants will need to submit the following:

1. Completed West Coast Visions Application Form utilizing the checklist provided to ensure all materials are submitted and in correct format.
2. Introductory cover letter.
3. Synopsis: log-line, one paragraph and one page synopsis.
4. Full screenplay.
5. Preliminary one page budget summary.

6. All relevant Chain of Title documents should ideally be provided to Screenwest for approval at the time of application as Screenwest contracting will often be contingent on such approval.
7. CVs of key creatives (ie. producer, director, writer and any other committed heads of department ie. production designer, editor, director of photography).
8. Letters of commitment from relevant creative heads of department (ie. production designer, editor, director of photography) or attached Cast
9. Breakdown of how the creative team meets the six (6) points required to meet the WA eligibility requirement.
10. Strong support notes from key creatives (eg. producer, writer and any other committed and relevant heads of department ie. production designer, editor, director of photography).
11. Director's vision statement.
12. Director's creative support material (eg. story boards, concept drawings - if relevant).
13. Director's show reel including all relevant short films via digital electronic link only.
14. Provisional shooting schedule.
15. A summary of the target audience and marketing strategy.
16. Any distributor/broadcaster interest/sales arrangements already in place.
17. Firm evidence of how the balance of funding and investment will be raised, including Finance Plan and narrative. Projects with Producer Offset financing must include a statement on how the producer will cash flow the Producer Offset, a statement indicating the status of the project's Provisional Certification from Screen Australia and provision within the budget to adequately cover interest costs.

Additional material may be requested throughout the assessment process.

**Shortlisting:** Representatives from Screenwest and the screen industry will shortlist applicants at an assessment meeting.

If shortlisted, applicants will be notified and required to provide (within 24-hours of notification) a full A-Z budget including details of [Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure](#).

**Applicants must complete stage one to be able to move through to stage two.**

### **Stage Two – Shortlisted applicants meet with the Assessment Panel**

The shortlisted applicants will be invited to outline their vision for the project in a series of meetings with the assessment panel. These will include, but are not limited to, an interview with the director and an interview with the team (ie. writer, director, producer). Each team will be expected to have evolved a practical and thematic approach to the realisation of the story within their budget.

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

### **Assessment criteria**

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Screenwest competitively assesses eligible applications against the following criteria:

1. Meeting the eligibility requirements under the above outlined West Coast Visions point system.
2. The quality of the overall proposal including script and all supporting materials.
3. The team's track record and the ability to deliver the project to a high standard.
4. Identified development outcomes for the Western Australian screen industry.
5. Achievability of the project within the year timeframe taking into consideration market interest and/or audience potential, finance plan, team's ability to deliver the project, and budget.

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.

The panelists assess all applications competitively and, as a consequence, funding is not assured even where an application meets the above criteria. Screenwest reverses its right to not fund any projects in any given year if the panel agrees that there is not a project strong enough in all of these areas.

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.

Screenwest management will invite any unsuccessful teams (producer, director and writer) in for a feedback session.

## **Closing date**

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

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

Applicants should allow plenty of time to submit an application in case of unanticipated problems as late applications will not be accepted.

## **Submitting an application**

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### ***Emailed applications***

Applications can be emailed to [funding@Screenwest.wa.gov.au](mailto: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***

Hard copy application will **only** be accepted if an electronic copy is also provided. The electronic and hard copies must:

1. Both be received by the closing date and time; and
2. Have absolutely no variance between them.

*Post applications to:*  
Attn Funding Admin Officer - Development  
Screenwest  
PO Box 3275  
East Perth WA 6892

*Hand deliver applications to:*  
Attn Funding Admin Officer –Development  
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**

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**Rikki Lea Bestall**  
**Director, Development**

**E:** [funding@Screenwest.wa.gov.au](mailto:funding@Screenwest.wa.gov.au)  
**T:** (08) 6169 2110  
**Toll free:** 1800 463 043 (WA country callers only)

Applicants should 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.