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MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday, 20 July 2017

Screenwest becomes a not-for-profit organisation

Screenwest formally became an independent not-for-profit organisation today.

Screenwest Board Chair Janelle Marr welcomed this significant step in Screenwest's life.

"We are no longer an incorporated association within the Department of Culture and the Arts. As of today, we are an independent Company Limited By Guarantee, responsible for our own governance and strategic direction," she said.

"The organisation's registered business name is Screenwest (Australia) Limited.

"Structural reform has been on Screenwest's agenda for many years. I am delighted that we have been able to deliver on a new structure that will enable Screenwest to be more flexible in its operations.

"It will now be easier for us to partner with the business community, Federal departments and not-for-profit and philanthropic organisations. This will increase the opportunities we can provide to the Western Australian screen industry."

Screenwest (Australia) Ltd is governed by a new constitution. It has a similar remit to the previous constitution, with updates that reflect the change in structure, changes in technology, and the organisation's independence with the removal of references to the Minister.

An Industry Advisory Group has been created to assist the Board to engage with the industry and provide advice on trends and issues affecting the Western Australia screen industry.

Screenwest will continue to be supported by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Lotterywest.

Mrs Marr said the past 12 months had been a successful year.

"We've introduced the \$16 million Western Australian Regional Film Fund, funded by Royalties for Regions, to attract high profile national and international feature films and television series to film in regional Western Australia," she said.

Screenwest is supported by



“We’ve spearheaded the creation of Fielder St Creative hub at the ABC building in East Perth and the development of the *Western Australian Screen Industry Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap*.

“Screenwest and the Western Australian screen industry had a record breaking year in 2016/17 with 59 projects filmed or post-produced in the State, creating more than 80 hours of content.

“Screenwest invested almost \$8 million in the projects, with production budgets totalling a record \$69 million.

“The projects included six feature films, 13 documentary series, five documentaries, 16 short form projects (online series, short films), three digital/VR projects and 16 Indigenous Community Stories archival recordings.

“We look forward to working with the industry and all our partners to continue to grow the Western Australian screen industry.”

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