



FAQ'S



1. WHY ARE THE TIME FRAMES SO SHORT?

There can be multiple factors impacting the amount of time a production has to move from development into full production, and within that the sheer creative scope of the industry means that last minute changes are always a possibility. Productions will endeavour to give as much lead time as possible, especially when there is a need to apply for filming permits and traffic control.

Bad weather can also play a part in last minute changes.

2. WHY HAS THE PRODUCTION CHOSEN A PARTICULAR LOCATION?

Many elements are taken into consideration when a production chooses a location. Creatively the location needs to match the brief and logistically the location needs to be practical for filming. Striking a balance between the two can sometimes be a challenge!

3. WHAT ABOUT PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE?

It is the responsibility of the production to organise the appropriate public liability insurance. Production should be able to provide a copy of their cover upon request. This insurance covers any damage done by the production or accidents caused by the filming activity.

4. WHAT HAPPENS IF A PRODUCTION FILMS WITHOUT A PERMIT OR IS IN BREACH OF PERMIT CONDITIONS?

It is up to the relevant council/shire to determine the appropriate action in each particular circumstance. Each situation will be different, so a blanket approach cannot be prescribed. Possible outcomes may be to shut down filming, charge a fine or a fee or blacklist production from future filming. Productions may find they are not covered by their insurance if they do not have appropriate permits or are operating within breach of permit conditions.

5. WHEN IS A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN NEEDED FOR FILMING?

When filming impacts the use of the road or road reserve a temporary traffic management plan is required. The plan can only be drawn up by a registered and qualified traffic management company.

6. WHAT IF THE SHOOT INVOLVES ANIMALS?

Productions working with animals should have on the crew a dedicated and trained animal trainer/wrangler responsible for the animal's wellbeing and behaviour on the shoot. If the animals action contravenes local bylaws (e.g. dog running off leash in a scene) an application for special dispensation may be required.

7. CAN A PRODUCTION REMOVE STREET FURNITURE FOR THEIR SHOOT?

The removal of street furniture, including signs and the adjustment of street lighting, is permissible on a case by case basis, and all costs, including damage or reinstatement costs, must be met by the production company.

8. IF A PRODUCTION IS FILMING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY DO THEY NEED TO INFORM THE LOCAL COUNCIL/SHIRE?

While there may be no requirement, courtesy suggests productions should inform councils of filming activity when filming on private property. Often parking requirements will trigger production to contact the relevant local government body.

9. WHAT IF A SHOOT INVOLVES STUNTS, FIREARMS OR SPECIAL EFFECTS?

Most production will have a Safety Management Plan which should be available on request. When a shoot involves stunts, firearms or special effects all measures to ensure safety are outlined within the Safety Management Plan and implemented by the on-set Safety Officer, Stunt Coordinator, Special Effects Supervisor and Armourer.

10. DO NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS TEAMS NEED FILMING APPROVAL?

News crews do not require approval for filming on public land.

11. WHAT ABOUT FILMING ON PRIVATE LAND?

Filmmakers are very familiar with the need to seek agreement from owners to film on private land such as homes and business premises. This agreement – a licence – usually takes the form of a location agreement spelling out the terms, conditions and fees for the filming, if required. Approval from a local council is not required for filming and associated activity which takes place entirely on private land.

If filming is primarily on private land but associated activity occurs on public land, then it may be necessary, subject to legislative requirements, for a filming approval to be sought for these associated activities. Conditions to ensure public safety, and relevant fees and charges may be applicable for such approvals, for example, running a cable across the footpath from the private property to a generator or management of reserved vehicle parking.

Filmmakers must notify council when filming is entirely contained within private land and are under an obligation to notify surrounding residents and businesses.