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## Feature Track: Scripted Development Fund Guidelines

### Program overview

Feature Film Development Track provides project development funding to Western Australian scripted features at various milestones for up to one year. Successful applicants will work toward quality, distinctive, feature film projects with strong Western Australian outcomes that are capable of reaching their target audience and attracting further investment and/or market interest. Projects are assessed at each milestone by a panel including the relevant Screenwest Project Manager and external industry experts. Feedback will be provided to successful applicants at each assessment/ milestone stage.

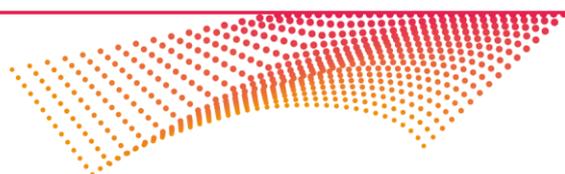
### Funding available

There will be two intakes per financial year (subject to funding availability).

Successful applicant(s) may be offered up to a maximum of \$25,000 per assessment /milestone stage. Successful applicants may apply for additional funding at up to three subsequent milestones to a limit of \$50,000 over the course of the track year. Projects will be assessed by Screenwest Management and two external assessors at agreed upon milestones (specific to each project's needs). This panel has absolute discretion at any time to remove a project from the track, if deemed through the assessment process, it has not demonstrated sufficient progression.

If successful, the entire duration of the track period will commence at the date of the initial intake offer letter and will be active for a period of one year from this date.

- The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.
- All applications are assessed competitively. Funds are limited and demand on Screenwest's resources far outweighs its ability to assist all applicants. Funding is not automatic even if an applicant meets all the criteria.
- Screenwest may approve funding at a reduced rate to the funding request, as guided by the Assessment Criteria and recommendations made during the assessment panel process.
- Production Companies can access a maximum total of \$50,000 per financial year (with a \$25,000 cap per application) through all Screenwest development programs, (including Emergency\*, Feature, Track, TV and Documentary rounds)
- \*Individual projects can only access one tranche of Emergency Development funding in perpetuity



- Funding will not be awarded retrospectively, for example, fees for drafts written prior to submitting an application are not eligible.

## Eligibility

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

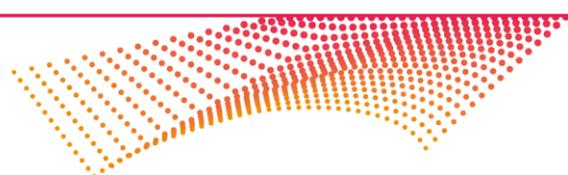
The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a Western Australian production company, key creative or individual. If you are not based in WA, please provide evidence of a genuine co-production partnership with a WA-based company or producer and satisfy how this project offers outstanding benefits to the WA screen industry.
3. Not be a current recipient of Screenwest Slate Development Investment funding.
4. 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.
5. Include at least one individual among the creative team (executive producer, producer, director, writer) who has a feature film credit that has been theatrically-distributed, or commercially released in the past five (5) years or, in the absence of this, demonstrated market interest in the project.
6. 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.

The project that is subject to this application:

1. Must be destined for theatrical distribution as a feature film.
2. Cannot apply for another intake of Feature Film Track Development funding, if it has already been through the track program previously.
3. If previously removed from a track intake (during any milestone/assessment phase), the project will only be reconsidered at a new first intake stage if the assessment panel deems the project has been substantially and satisfactorily changed, developed or reworked since its last official assessment.

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 relevant Project Manager 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

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

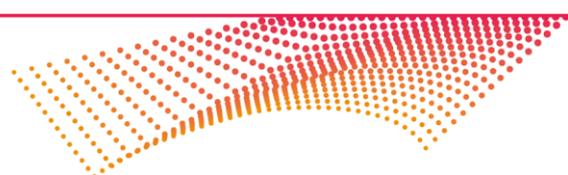
It is the Producer's responsibility to obtain and renew (i) the entire copyright in all material commissioned and/or acquired by it for the development of the Project, (ii) all necessary consents to permit the development of the Project, and (iii) all necessary consents to permit the Project to be produced and exploited. Whilst Screenwest approval or sighting of these agreements may not be required at the time of contracting, Screenwest reserves the right to verify them at any point.

**Failure to fulfil 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 are required to submit:

1. A completed Application Form.
2. Cover letter listing all submission materials submitted.
3. If the project has been submitted and declined funding previously, a document listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application is required.
4. A document containing a log line, one paragraph synopsis and a one-page detailed synopsis.
5. A development budget that breaks down the investment from all investors, including the Applicant. The applicant is expected to include acceptable rates for fees when preparing the development budget. Screenwest has created a guide for [Acceptable Budget Figures – Feature Films](#) to assist in preparing an application.
6. A written budget rationale that explains the Screenwest funding request; what the costs are for and how they will be expended. Screenwest prefers to invest in Western Australian elements, although exceptions can be made.
7. If relevant, there must be strong indigenous representation on all projects that tell indigenous stories, through the involvement of an indigenous key creative or through thorough consultation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for. Written confirmation of the willingness of both the subject(s) and the community to be involved in the project is essential.
8. The latest draft script or full treatment. The script or treatment must have a title page with project name, draft number, full date (day/month/year), writer name and if applicable, producer's name.
9. If only a treatment is submitted, then a sample script from the writer must also be provided.



10. A clear development strategy outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken throughout this stage of development (e.g. writer's notes and a clear strategy from the producer on how they are going to move the project forward to commissioning).
11. If a Director is attached to the project, a link to their show reel is to be provided.
12. CVs (one page) for each of the project principals and, if applicable, a company profile indicating past success in producing and pre-marketing projects.
13. Any letters of support from key cast and/or interested parties.
14. Letters or emails of intent or other documentation giving proof of marketplace interest.
15. A marketing/production financing strategy.

**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**

Screenwest and external industry assessors competitively assesses eligible applications against the following criteria:

1. The quality of the idea, current draft and/or supporting materials.
2. The participation of a local producer and key creatives (Screenwest will always give priority to projects that have a local producer as an active part of the team). The strength of the development strategy and likelihood it will be achieved to a high standard.
3. The ability and/or track record of the writer and team in feature film.
4. Market potential or interest and likely audience appeal of the project.
5. The likely chance of the project being realised in Western Australia considering budget, locations, and other creative elements.
6. Cultural and/or economic benefits to Western Australia.

### **Additional considerations**

#### **Indigenous Content and Participation**

Where there is Indigenous content or participation in any project, Screenwest requires that each applicant complies with protocols related to the treatment of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights (ICIP). For more information on ICIP, please refer to the Arts Law Centre of Australia.

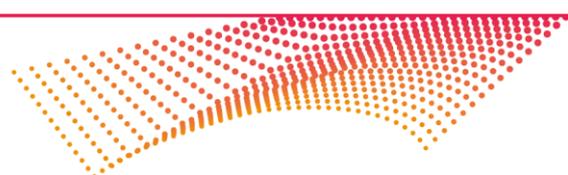
Written confirmation of the willingness of both the subject(s) and the community to be involved in the project is essential.

There must be strong indigenous representation on all projects that tell indigenous stories, through the involvement of an indigenous key creative or through thorough consultation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time for consultation so that people giving consent can more fully understand what they are consenting to.

Please note, these requirements apply equally to Indigenous and non-Indigenous filmmakers.

For information on what Content, Consent and Consultation means, please refer to the Screenwest website for more information on [Filming with Indigenous People, Content and Land](#).



For more detailed information on Indigenous Content and Participation protocols, please refer to [Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols: a filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#).

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**

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are published in the Screenwest newsletter. To subscribe to the newsletter, go to the Screenwest homepage [www.screenwest.com.au](http://www.screenwest.com.au)

**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**

### ***Emailed applications***

Applications can be emailed to [funding@screenwest.com.au](mailto:funding@screenwest.com.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://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/screenwest>.

### ***Hard copy applications***

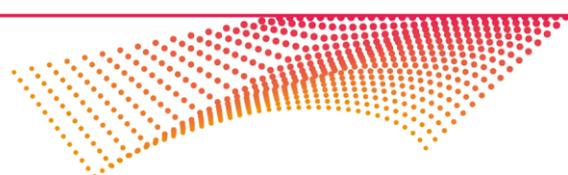
#### *Post applications to:*

Attn: Screenwest Development & Production Assistant  
Screenwest  
PO Box 3275  
East Perth WA 6892

#### *Hand deliver applications to:*

Attn: Screenwest Development & Production Assistant  
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 Contacts**

**Franziska Wagenfeld, Development & Production Executive**

**Screenwest**

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**Eva Di Blasio, Talent Development Manager**

**Screenwest**

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**Toll Free: 1800 463 043 (regional callers)**

**[www.screenwest.com.au](http://www.screenwest.com.au)**

Please note that just prior to a closing date, meetings with the Project Managers can be in high demand. Consequently, it is best to telephone or email for an appointment or general advice well before the advertised closing date.

