

Western Australian Screen Fund – Production Funding Criteria and Guidelines

Production Funding that encourages regional film industry activity, builds local capacity, and contributes to the liveability and vibrancy of regional Western Australian Communities.

What is it?

The Western Australian Screen Fund (WASF) is a WA State Government Royalties for Regions funding initiative, provided through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC).

It is committed to encouraging regional film industry activity through strategic project funding that aims to build Western Australian regional capacity and contribute to the liveability and vibrancy of Western Australian regional communities.

Regional areas are those parts of regional Western Australia as defined in the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993 (WA).

WASF was established for the purpose of generating regional outcomes through developing and supporting regionally based businesses, services, and talent.

This coordinated and targeted fund focuses on Western Australian regional screen industry activities, particularly:

- Purchasing goods and services
- Capitalising on tourism development opportunities
- Building capability

- Facilitating job creation
- Assisting with longer term economic and cultural benefits
- Building the capacity of the WA production and post-production sectors

Regional Outputs and Outcomes

In order to achieve regional outcomes, WASF funds screen projects, inclusive of the production of audio-visual content of any format.

During the course of the application process, a Regional Outputs and Outcomes agreement (ROO) will need to be developed between the applicant Producer and the relevant Western Australian Regional Development Commission on the expected regional outcomes that the project will likely deliver.

Special consideration will be given to projects that deliver:

- High profile Western Australian stories.
- High value returnable series that can confirm an extended production period in a regional area.
- National and international productions with a strong likelihood of reaching a large global audience.

WASF is managed by Screenwest in partnership Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), through the nine Western Australian Regional Development Commissions, and other key stakeholders.

What can I apply for?

Stage 1: Regional Scouting and Community Liaison Assistance

- **Up to \$10,000** to assist with the travel and negotiation of regional outcomes and the calculation of regional expenditure. This will need to be delivered by the project prior to a Stage 2 application being submitted.
- Stage 1 funding will be provided as a grant.

Stage 2: Production Funding

- **Up to a maximum of \$2,000,000.** Stage 2 Production funding will be provided as a grant.

Please note: The total maximum funding cap applies across both WASF and Screenwest production funding. The WA PDV is not considered part of this funding cap.

Disclaimer

- Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.
- Screenwest may approve funding less than the requested amount, as guided by the recommendations made during the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

Am I eligible?

To be considered eligible for this program:

The applicant must:

1. Be a Western Australian resident (as defined in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#)).
 - a. Non-Western Australian Producers are eligible to apply where the project can demonstrate:
 - i. it is likely to bring strong economic and/or cultural opportunities to the State, or
 - ii. it will benefit the Western Australian screen industry or Screenwest's position.
2. Meet the applicable eligibility requirements of the Screenwest Terms of Trade.
3. Have an extensive professional track record that demonstrates his/her/its ability to successfully produce and deliver a project of the scope and scale proposed and/or the attachment of other individuals in positions of responsibility that demonstrate likewise.
4. Provide evidence to support the project's likely potential to reach significant audiences, in the form of superior market commitment, well known source material and/or original works from successful writers, highly regarded and well-known onscreen talent and directing attachments.

5. Be the same across all funding applications if applying or planning to apply for any other Screenwest production funds (as well as WASF).

The project must:

1. Meet the minimum qualifying spend in the Western Australia Region/s (QWARE¹), being:
 - a. \$500,000 for feature films; scripted series, miniseries, telemovie, or children's series
 - b. \$100,000 for all documentary productions

Please note: while Screenwest requires a contingency to be allocated for QWARE, the funding amount requested from Screenwest must **exclude** this required contingency amount.

2. Meet the minimum Qualifying Western Australia Expenditure (QWAE) of \$1,000,000
3. Meet a minimum ratio of eligible contributions as follows:
 - a. 2:1 - Qualifying Western Australian Regional Expenditure (QWARE) to total WASF funding
 - b. 3:1 - Qualifying Western Australia Expenditure (QWAE) to total combined WASF and Screenwest funding

It is the applicant's responsibility to notify Screenwest immediately if any of the anticipated or actual spend ratios change or are likely to change at any time during the assessment period, or if successful, during the production period.

Detailed information on what qualifies as Regional Expenditure (QWARE) and all of Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) is available on the [WASF page of the Screenwest website](#).

¹ QWARE means the amount of Qualifying Western Australian Regional Expenditure spent by the Recipient in the course of producing the Film in the region in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, being money spent on the purchase of goods and services with businesses that are owned or operated within the Region, payments to individual providers who are resident in the Region, inbound flights to the Region, crew per diems paid for production activity in the region, 10% of all fees, overtime and loadings paid to non-WARR or WARC crew while in the region and including without limitation the items set out in the Regional Spend Budget approved by Screenwest.

Multiple projects cannot be packaged together to achieve the minimum qualifying spend threshold; however, one season of a TV series will be considered a single project.

It is possible to combine incentives on the same project when applying separately for Screenwest Production funding, WASF Production Funding and WA PDV support.

Please note: the post-production component of any project application for Screenwest Production funding and/or WASF production funding must be **excluded** from the calculation of Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) in the application, if the applicant is also applying / intending to apply separately for the WA PDV.

What Do I Need to Apply?

You will need the following:

Stage 1:

- Completed WASF Stage 1 Application Form on SmartyGrants, including any additional information, documentation and materials listed.
- Completed budget template, including a line by line rationale for the funding request.

Stage 2:

- Completed WASF Stage 2 Application Form on SmartyGrants, including any additional information, documentation and materials listed.
- A letter of confirmation (can in the form of an email, or official letter) from any involved Regional Development Commission/s, confirming that you are in discussions about what your project may be able to offer that region and any information on collaboration to date.
- A draft Regional Outputs and Outcomes (ROO) agreement, including at a minimum, a summary of the proposed regional activities.

Please note: If a project is successful for funding, all ROOs will need to be agreed upon, cited, and signed by the Producer and the Commission/s prior to contract finalisation.

- All additional documents referred to in the Application Form on SmartyGrants.

Production Budget Requirements

Crew Attachment Program

- Productions that receive Screenwest production or WASF funding over \$100,000 are required to budget for and engage a Western Australian attachment/s in consultation with Screenwest.
 - **\$299,000 and less in combined Screenwest production & WASF funding** – the production must budget for 1 attachment at \$1,000/50-hour week for 6 weeks (\$6,000)
 - **\$300,000 and greater in combined Screenwest production & WASF funding** – the production must budget for 2 attachments at \$1,000/50-hour week for 6 weeks (\$12,000)

Please refer to the [Crew Attachment Program Guidelines](#) on the Screenwest website for more information.

Fees

- All production budgets at application stage must allow for any and all repayable development investment and/or slate fees.
- While Screenwest Project Managers may check that these fees have been adequately budgeted for, the responsibility to ensure they are accommodated rests solely with the applicant

How is my application assessed?

Assessment Criteria

Screenwest will assess all eligible applications against the following criteria:

Stage 1 & 2:

- The applicant / applicant company and teams track record
- The quality of the overall proposal
- The likelihood of the project being fully financed and realised

- The economic and cultural value the project is likely to deliver to the Western Australia Region/s
- Availability of WASF funds

Additionally, for Stage 2:

- The proposed regional outputs and likely regional outcomes of the project
- Minimum likely audience reach
- Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements, in particular the minimum QWARE and QWAE expenditure
- Support for Screenwest's commitment to the creation and growth of diverse representation as further described below.
- Alignment with Screenwest's current strategic plan

In evaluating an application Screenwest will consider any information provided and weight the above criteria as it judges appropriate to best serve the purpose and strategy of the organisation.

Assessment Process

Screenwest will follow the following process in assessing an application:

Stage 1:

1. A Screenwest Program Manager will check the application's eligibility and assess the application against the assessment criteria.

Stage 2:

1. A Screenwest Program Manager will check the application's eligibility.
2. Applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of Industry expert/s, Screenwest Executive, Screenwest Board, and a representative from the Department of Local Government Sport & Cultural Industries.

3. Panel funding recommendations will be presented to the next available Screenwest Board meeting for endorsement
4. Once endorsed by the Screenwest Board, WASF recommendations are progressed to the Minister for Culture and the Arts for final approval.

Diversity

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through stories funded and practitioners supported. Screenwest recognises diversity as differences in:

- Gender
- Age
- Indigenous identity
- Cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD)
- Disability
- Sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and ace (LGBTQIA+)
- Location (including regional and remote regions) and
- Socio-economic status.

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](#).

Terms of Funding

Successful recipients will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what milestones will need to be reached in order to get paid.

WASF funding offers are valid for a limited period (generally three months), or unless otherwise approved by Screenwest. Any specific conditions of the funding offer will be outlined in the Letter of Offer.

Completion Guarantee

Screenwest requires a letter of intent from a Completion Bond prior to proceeding to Stage 2 in the Application Process, unless otherwise approved by Screenwest.

Audit and Final Cost Statement

All successful applicants will be required to provide proper cost reporting and acquittal on their funding. Individual funding agreements shall set out specific audit and reporting requirements.

In the specific case of WASF production funding, an independent audit is required of all production expenditure at project completion, including final QWAE and final QWARE.

What is the application deadline?

Applications must be complete and will be accepted at any time. They should be made at least three months prior to production.

How do I submit my application?

- Applications will be accepted through the [Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal](#). Do not email applications directly to individual Screenwest staff members.
- An application receipt will be automatically forwarded to the applicant from SmartyGrants 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 two working days.**

If you are unable to submit an application online or having difficulties, please call Screenwest on [+61 8 6169 2100](#) or 1800 463 043 (regional callers).

Who can I speak to about this program?

For more information about the Western Australian Screen Fund, please contact:

Gabrielle Cole, Production Attraction & Services Manager

Screenwest

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Please note that meetings with program contacts can be in high demand, so it's best to telephone or email for an appointment or general advice well before planning to submit an application.

Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to discuss their applications before applying.