



Screenwest (Australia) Ltd
ABN 43 620 492 300

West Coast Visions Documentary Guidelines

This initiative is designed to uncover, inspire and develop talented Western Australian filmmaking teams with a distinctive vision. It provides grant production funding for a director's debut feature length documentary film that will be made in Western Australia.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically under-represented groups.

Funding Available

- Up to \$500,000 per project.

Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant meets all the criteria. To note: if successful, this funding will count towards the applicant's Production Funding caps, as outlined in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).

Eligibility

Applicant / Company Eligibility

The applicant / company must:

1. Be a resident Western Australian Producer/Production Company, as per the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Meet the general eligibility requirements as set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
3. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application.

Team Eligibility

The team must:

- Be led by a first-time Western Australian feature documentary Director who has not had a theatrically released feature film credit or equivalent Above-the-Line (ATL) broadcast credit.
- Include at least one Western Australian producer who will be credited in this role on this film.

Project Eligibility

The project must:

1. Be a production ready feature film intended for theatrical release or released as a feature length film for Australian television broadcast or streaming platform.
2. Commence production in Western Australia within a one-year time frame.
3. Clearly demonstrate substantial changes (as determined by Screenwest Management) if the project has previously been declined for funding by Screenwest.
4. Complete all pre-production and post-production in Western Australia.
5. Score a minimum of 6 points out of a possible 10 in the 'West Coast Visions Points Allocation Table'. At least 2 points must come from the producer and writer.

West Coast Visions Points Allocation Table (explanatory notes provided under the table)

Ref	Position	Points allocated for a WA resident
A	WA Producer(s)	2
B	Original concept with at least 50% copyright owned by WA Production Company/Producer.	2

C	WA Writer/s; at least 50% of the writers (receiving full credit) attached must be filled by West Australians to receive this point.	1
D	WA Director of Photography	1
E	WA Editor	1
F	Identifiable WA location/setting or character	2
G	Flexible Points*	1

Explanatory Notes:

- To qualify as Western Australian for points allocation, practitioners must meet the definition of a Western Australian Resident outlined in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
- The total 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 points.
- *Flexible Points– can be attributed to outcomes that haven’t been accounted for. The outcomes must align with Screenwest’s Strategic Plan priorities. The Applicant must present a compelling case for these points.
- All other crew members will be expected to be Western Australian residents unless otherwise agreed upon by Screenwest Management.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. *Team*: track record of the applicant(s) and key creatives.
2. *Cultural and Creative*: cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia. Priority will be placed on projects that profile WA characters / locations / storylines.

3. *Directorial Voice*: evidence of a new distinctive directorial voice and compelling storytelling style in the Director’s Statement and in the example/s of the Director’s previous works.
4. *Quality*: strength of the concept, treatment and production methodology including the appropriateness of the finance plan.
5. *Feasibility*: 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 the budget.
6. *Strategic Alignment*: how the project aligns with the relevant strategic initiatives as set out in the Screenwest Strategic Plan.
7. *Diversity*: how the project supports Screenwest’s commitment to the creation and growth of diverse representation including overall diversity of projects funded by Screenwest.

First Nations Australian Content

Screenwest supports the telling of First Nations Australian stories by First Nations Australian creatives and storytellers.

There must be strong First Nations Australian representation on all projects that tell First Nations Australian stories, through the involvement of First Nations Australian key creatives and thorough consultation, incubation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Diversity Statement

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia’s community on and off screen, through stories funded and practitioners supported.

It is important that you / your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in the project.

Screenwest recognises diversity broadly 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.

Application Process

This initiative has a two-stage application process.

- **Stage One:** submit a funding application via our [SmartyGrants](#) portal.

The application form can be viewed in 'preview' mode and downloaded from [SmartyGrants](#). Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.
- **Stage Two:** shortlisted applications will be invited for an interview with the assessment panel to expand on their application.
- Before applying read these guidelines and the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#). The Terms of Trade set out the core terms on which Screenwest conducts its business.
- Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to discuss their applications with the Program Manager before applying.

After you apply

- Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.
- A panel consisting of Screenwest Management and experienced industry representatives will assess eligible applications.
- Screenwest Management reserves the right to shortlist applications prior to the formal assessment.
- Funding panel recommendations are presented to the Screenwest Board for approval.
- You will be advised of the outcome within 8-10 weeks of the funding round closing date.

- Screenwest Management will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

Terms of Funding

- Successful applicants have 12 months to achieve greenlight. If greenlight is not achieved in this period, the West Coast Visions funding offer will lapse.
- Production funding will be provided as a grant.
- Successful applicants will enter into a written Production Grant Agreement (PGA) with Screenwest, outlining funding conditions, cash flow details and the deliverables required for scheduled payments.
- The project budget must include an allocation for a Mentor for an under resourced skills gap. The Mentor must be identified in consultation with Screenwest and the completion guarantor. A minimum budget allocation of \$10,000 is required.
- Receipt of funding should not lead to any expectation of continued assistance from Screenwest beyond the term of the project PGA.
- Any Screenwest project development investment repayment obligations must be met.

Program Contacts

General Enquiries

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