



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Reviewing the Government's Investment in the Screen Sector

**Portfolios**                      **Arts, Culture and Heritage / Economic and Regional Development**

On 24 November 2021, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1        **noted** that on 14 April 2021, DEV invited the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and the Minister for Economic and Regional Development (Joint Ministers) to report back by September 2021 on:
  - 1.1      the objectives for Crown investment in, and support for, the screen sector;
  - 1.2      the scope of a potential review of Crown support for the sector to lift value and improve discretion over this investment;

[DEV-21-MIN-0083]
- 2        **noted** that government policy settings have been successful in growing the screen sector, but that there are now challenges facing the sector that require a different approach;
- 3        **agreed** that the government's objectives for investment in, and support for, the screen sector be to:
  - 3.1      support the development of a more balanced, resilient and sustainable New Zealand screen sector, being one that is less vulnerable to global shifts in incentives, with more diversified business models, including a cohort of New Zealand businesses at scale operating at the global frontier, and creating a diverse range of content including high quality New Zealand productions;
  - 3.2      support improved conditions, pay and career pathways for New Zealanders in the screen sector, including enabling a growing number of New Zealanders to take on higher paid roles on and off the screen;
  - 3.3      improve social cohesion by supporting the development of New Zealand content on screen that reflects the diversity of New Zealand and reaches a broad audience;
  - 3.4      maximise the benefits generated to the wider New Zealand economy from the screen sector, including through driving innovation, attracting global talent, building New Zealand's global brand, leveraging long-term benefits from screen production activity, and audience engagement with New Zealand content;
- 4        **noted** that the government's obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi apply to each of the objectives and are fundamental to their delivery;

- 5 **agreed** that Joint Ministers take forward a review (the screen sector funding review) that considers the policy settings for direct funding to the screen sector from the Arts, Culture and Heritage and the Economic and Regional Development portfolios, with specific focus on a review of the New Zealand Screen Production Grant (Domestic and International);
- 6 **noted** that depending on the outcome from the screen sector funding review, a subsequent review of the New Zealand Film Commission may be undertaken;
- 7 **noted** that the cost of the screen sector funding review will be met from within Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment baselines;
- 8 **agreed** to the terms of reference for the screen sector funding review, attached to the paper under DEV-21-SUB-0242, subject to any minor or editorial changes that may be approved by Joint Ministers;
- 9 **authorised** Joint Ministers to take decisions on the announcements relating to the screen sector funding review;
- 10 **invited** Joint Ministers to report back to DEV before the end of the third quarter of 2022, ahead of any formal public consultation;
- 11 **invited** Joint Ministers to report back to DEV before mid-2023 with:
- 11.1 final advice on any changes to the New Zealand Screen Production Grant and other direct funding as relevant;
- 11.2 advice on whether a review of the New Zealand Film Commission is required.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Kiri Allan  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Rino Tirikatene, MP  
Dr Deborah Russell, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV