

EBeyond The SScreen

Building a creative future for First Nations



■ IMAGE CREDIT: FRONT COVER, STILL FROM TOTAL CONTROL



■ IMAGE CREDIT: EPISODE STILL OF BARRUMBI KIDS

Acknowledgement of Country

Screen Queensland acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Custodians of Australia. We recognise their 65,000 years of custodianship that pre-dates colonisation.

We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and recognise the cultural and historic connection to land, sea, cosmos (the inclusion of the constellations that are part of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spiritual and environmental narrative) and community.

Screen Queensland is committed to elevating the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners to continue to share their rich cultures and perspectives with the Queensland and global community through screen storytelling.

Screen Queensland understands the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and practitioners to be leaders in their narratives to promote inclusion, collaboration and authenticity.

ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE.



■ IMAGE CREDIT: STRAIT TO THE PLATE (SEASON 2)

NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

Screen Queensland has opted to use “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander” and “First Nations” interchangeably throughout our strategy to refer to Australia’s First Peoples.

Our use of this language is intended to be respectful and inclusive of the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia.

CULTURAL WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this document may contain images and names of deceased persons.

CONTACT

For all enquiries about Screen Queensland’s Beyond the Screen Strategy, please contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit at:

FIRSTNATIONS@SCREENQLD.COM.AU

Storytelling from the heart of First Nations cultures to the global screen

Australia is home to the world's oldest living cultures, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first storytellers of this land. Through stories, First Nations people have passed on their rich traditions and languages to the next generation. For them, storytelling is not just an art form.

It's a powerful expression of humanity, identity, and resilience, carrying their wisdom and history into the present and future.

The screen industry—made up of film, series and digital games—has the power to transform perspectives, challenge stereotypes, and foster connection. In an era where storytelling expands and shapes our understanding of the world, the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are essential to the narratives that reflect our nation.

Screen Queensland embraces its responsibility to uphold integrity and cultural authenticity in the screen industry.

We are dedicated to providing a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to share their stories with respect and honour.

Our vision is to empower these communities with the resources they need to define the future of the screen industry. To tell stories central to their culture and experiences — past, present and future.



■ IMAGE CREDIT: BEHIND THE SCENES OF WE ARE STILL HERE



■ IMAGE CREDIT: DEAN GIBSON (DIRECTOR)
INCARCERATION NATION

About Screen Queensland

Screen Queensland is the Queensland Government-owned agency dedicated to growing a successful screen industry in the state.

We support locally produced films, series and digital games, while attracting international and interstate productions to Queensland. From our headquarters in Brisbane and our studios operating in Brisbane and Cairns, we run talent development initiatives to build the skills of screen practitioners across the state and support festivals and industry events.

For more information about funding programs, incentives, locations, and facilities, visit:

[SCREENQUEENSLAND.COM.AU](https://www.screenqueensland.com.au)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit



■ IMAGE CREDIT: MYSTERY ROAD

In 2023, Screen Queensland deepened its commitment to First Nations peoples by launching the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit, supported by a dedicated leadership team and an innovative strategy. This pivotal step is set to transform the screen industry, empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives to enrich Australia's cultural narrative.

The Unit's primary goal is to drive economic growth and build a sustainable First Nations screen industry in Queensland. By offering targeted support, resources, and opportunities, Screen Queensland ensures that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices remain at the heart of the nation's storytelling future.



Beyond The Screen

Screen Queensland presents Beyond the Screen, a decade-long strategy dedicated to elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives and shaping their future in the screen industry.

By creating new opportunities and driving meaningful change, this strategy aims to amplify economic and creative equity for First Nations peoples in the sector.

Beyond the Screen empowers Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners to gain national and global recognition. Rooted in a deep respect for culture and tradition, the initiative is committed to advancing reconciliation, truth-telling and wellbeing through the power of storytelling.

Taking a holistic approach mindful of the diverse goals and contributions of First Nations communities, Beyond the Screen champions self-driven productions and authentic representation.

It seeks to tell stories from all genres and perspectives, reimagining industry narratives and practices alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives.

Beyond the Screen paves the way for a future where First Nations creatives lead the Australian screen industries, sharing stories with a voice, lens, and perspective that is uniquely their own to a global audience.

Driven by First Nations creative aspirations

Beyond the Screen aligns with Screen Queensland's commitment to diversity, authenticity, and the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories on local and global stages. This initiative is designed to lead industry reflection and reform, proactively fostering diversity and understanding to set a benchmark for the screen industry.

Over the next decade, Beyond the Screen will leverage Screen Queensland's resources to break systemic barriers, encourage cross-cultural

collaborations, and empower First Nations practitioners, businesses, and content creators.

Screen Queensland continues to adapt and reflect the diverse priorities and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives through action, care, and a dedication to engaging with First Nations creatives.

■ IMAGE CREDIT: JIMI BANI AS EDDIE MABO IN MABO





Mission ■ What we do and for who

To empower First Nations to master their creativity, rise to leadership and connect with audiences through dynamic storytelling.

■ IMAGE CREDIT: WE ARE STILL HERE



Vision

A bold future for the screen industry driven by creative excellence and influential First Nations creatives, sharing distinct stories with the world.

■ IMAGE CREDIT: THE LOST TIGER - LIKE A PHOTON

Guiding Principles

AUTHENTIC

Screen Queensland reflects First Nations stories, diversity, traditions, and perspectives, honouring cultural practices and strong representation on and off the screen.

INDEPENDENT

Screen Queensland empowers First Nations practitioners to shape their narratives and take creative ownership of decision-making across all areas of the screen industry.

COLLABORATIVE

Screen Queensland fosters strong relationships with First Nations practitioners, grounded in trust, respect, and transparency.

FORWARD-THINKING

Screen Queensland faces the future with confidence, leveraging cutting-edge technology to bring visionary First Nations stories to the world stage.

CONSCIOUS

Screen Queensland is committed to cultural, economic, environmental, and social sustainability in all its efforts to protect, respect, and create a brighter future.

CREATIVE

Screen Queensland pioneers a fresh approach to a First Nations screen sector, sparking new ideas, perspectives, and expressions that deliver groundbreaking storytelling like never before.

Strategic Priorities

Beyond the Screen is delivered over three key phases designed to create sustainable growth and long-lasting impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives. Each phase lays a strong foundation for the next.

Foundation 2024-26

Beyond the Screen will create support structures and make strategic investments to elevate First Nations stories. We will build a solid foundation to drive systemic change for First Nations practitioners across all roles and levels in the screen industry.

UNLOCK THE
POTENTIAL OF FIRST
NATIONS TALENT.

Grow 2026-30

Leveraging insights from the Foundation phase, Beyond the Screen will grow its national impact by promoting sustainable growth through increased opportunities and resources.

SET NATIONAL INDUSTRY
BENCHMARKS FOR FIRST
NATIONS PRACTITIONERS.

Elevate 2030-34

Amplify the national pool of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander screen practitioners to the world stage through targeted initiatives that drive global recognition and success.

CHAMPION INDUSTRY-LEADING
FIRST NATIONS CREATIVES.

'24 '25 '26 '27 '28 '29 '30 '31 '32 '33 '34



Strategic Priorities

Beyond the Screen is built on four key pillars

■ IMAGE CREDIT: BEHIND THE SCENES OF BLACK SNOW, KAYLENE BUTLER (PRODUCER), CHRISTINA TOGO (DIRECTORS ATTACHMENT) & MURRAY LUI (DOP)

01 — Creative Pathways

UNLOCKING FIRST NATIONS CREATIVITY

Screen Queensland empowers First Nations creators by fostering a culturally diverse screen industry rooted in respect and knowledge, advancing representation, supporting First Nations-led projects, and providing a platform for vital stories that ensure cultural revitalisation and preservation.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, BEYOND THE SCREEN WILL:

- Champion First Nations practitioners, their contributions and work to expand their visibility across industry platforms and festivals that reach an international audience.
- Contribute to Queensland's reconciliation efforts and truth-telling by investing in First Nations-led projects, stories, voices and perspectives.
- Lead cultural advocacy to build a screen industry informed by, respectful of, and meaningfully integrated with First Nations perspectives.

ITS SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED BY:

- A diverse screen industry where First Nations content is embraced and celebrated by global markets.
- A screen industry informed by First Nations protocols and practices to ensure representation and engagement.
- First Nations stories showcased on screen as a catalyst for advancing reconciliation and truth-telling.

02 — Ignite Potential

ELEVATING AND EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

Screen Queensland creates professional opportunities for First Nations practitioners, boosting capacity, employment, and career growth.

Through support structures, skills development, and application of resources, it paves the way for First Nations creatives to become industry leaders.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, BEYOND THE SCREEN WILL:

- Establish clear pathways for talent development with support, mentorship and access to industry resources and platforms.
- Empower First Nation enterprises with the entrepreneurial, technical and business support required to gain a competitive edge, scale globally and ensure long-term success.
- Unlock access to export opportunities for First Nations screen content, offering international sales, distributions and co-production opportunities.
- Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in leadership roles to shape the future of the screen industry together.
- Boost industry participation for below-the-line crew, increasing sector capacity and using transferable skills as a gateway into the industry.

ITS SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED BY:

- A thriving ecosystem of First Nations entrepreneurs with global market presence.
- An industry led by influential First Nations practitioners who shape standards, practices, and global screen trends.
- A Queensland-based pool of highly skilled First Nations crew recognised for excellence in the national and global industry.

03 — Enable Creators

CULTIVATING A CREATIVE ECOSYSTEM

Screen Queensland fosters collaborations and partnerships in the screen industry to create opportunities, visibility and professional growth for First Nations screen practitioners.

By connecting First Nations creatives with industry leaders, global brands, and like-minded peers, Screen Queensland empowers the sharing of stories that shed light on unique cultural perspectives and diverse talents.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, BEYOND THE SCREEN WILL:

- Engage in dialogue and consultation with First Nations practitioners to understand and support their diverse needs, priorities, and cultural values.
- Establish and grow a network of screen industry professionals to support, empower, and uplift First Nations talent.
- Leverage Screen Queensland's relationships to create local and global partnerships, forming collaborative opportunities in funding, sales, and distribution that amplify the impact of First Nations practitioners.

ITS SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED BY:

- A global screen industry enthusiastic and committed to mutually beneficial and respectful collaborations with First Nations practitioners.
- A vibrant tapestry of culturally significant stories led by First Nations creatives and crafted in collaboration with the global screen industry, promoting economic and social progress.

04 — Shape The Future

PIONEERING DYNAMIC CREATIVE OUTLETS

Screen Queensland utilises cutting-edge technology and storytelling techniques through a First Nations lens to define the future of the screen industry.

By fostering innovation and focusing on underexplored sectors such as game development, Screen Queensland empowers First Nations creatives to adapt to emerging trends and influence the evolution of the global screen landscape.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, BEYOND THE SCREEN WILL:

- Secure funding for resources to develop a competitive First Nations-led game development sector.
- Strengthen the digital skills of First Nations creators to improve their online storytelling and expand their audience by optimising social media and streaming platforms.
- Promote the telling of genre-diverse First Nations stories by supporting experimental and progressive projects that blend contemporary storytelling with cutting-edge technology.

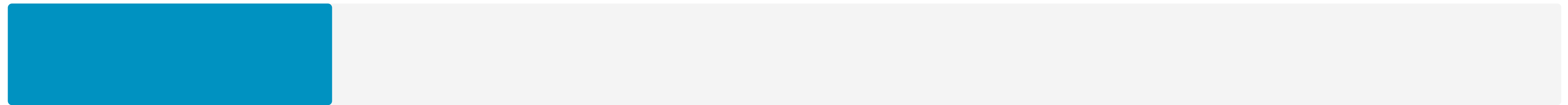
ITS SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED BY:

- An evolving, First Nations-led gaming industry marked by increased production, market presence, and innovation.
- A diverse screen industry featuring a wide range of forward-thinking First Nations content that draws on future trends, technologies, and perspectives.

Key Actions

Foundation 2024-26

- Create a First Nations-led screen advisory committee to provide guidance and cultural insights to industry practitioners and enterprises.
- Revise funding guidelines and opportunities to better meet the needs of First Nations talent.
- Publish and share resources on best practices for engaging with First Nations peoples.
- Design and action a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Create development pathways, structures, partnerships and collaborative opportunities for First Nations practitioners at every level.
- Launch an online database of First Nations creatives and crew.



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Key Actions

Grow 2026-30

- Evolve and empower the First Nations talent pool with increased funding, creative labs and incubator programs.
- Explore new formats and technologies to shape the future of the screen industry.
- Collaborate with the wider screen industry to promote annual events that offer a global platform and marketplace for Queensland First Nations stories.
- Develop and implement an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Create pathways for First Nations practitioners to engage with producers and distributors at local and global levels.
- Launch a First Nations Creative Leadership Accelerator focused on business growth, intellectual property ownership, and leadership development.



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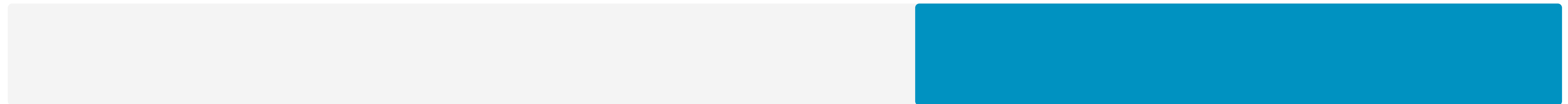
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Key Actions

Elevate 2030-34

- Elevate First Nations enterprises to a global level through targeted development and growth opportunities.
- Promote international collaboration and innovation with a tailored Global Practitioner Exchange Program.
- Develop and launch a Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Establish a First Nations Global Co-Production Hub to partner with international studios and production companies in co-creating culturally resonant, high-impact projects.



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Our Promise to First Nations Creatives

Over its decade-long commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Screen Queensland is devoted to fostering leadership, innovation, and creative excellence, empowering First Nations creatives and enterprises to make a global impact.

With targeted initiatives, Screen Queensland will elevate First Nations-led productions that tell contemporary, genre-diverse stories that transcend traditional narratives.

Beyond the Screen is a bold, high-impact strategic plan designed to transform and amplify First Nations screen practitioners into national and global leaders.

To diversify and layer the voices of First Nations practitioners with cutting-edge technology, innovative thinking and exploration in emerging screen sectors.

Screen Queensland is committed to offering First Nations talent the support, resources, structures, and access they need to shape the future of the screen industry with a contemporary voice that reflects what it means to be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person today.

Summary

- 01 ▪ Boost productions led by First Nations creatives.
- 02 ▪ Support First Nations practitioners in achieving creative excellence.
- 03 ▪ Raise First Nations talent to industry leadership.
- 04 ▪ Showcase First Nations stories on a global platform.
- 05 ▪ Grow First Nations screen talent and businesses in Queensland.
- 06 ▪ Pave the way for First Nations in the games industry.

Implementation and Reporting

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The governance and oversight of the strategy will be a shared responsibility between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit, the First Nations Screen Advisory Committee, and Screen Queensland Board. This collaborative approach ensures effective implementation while aligning with the goals and aspirations of First Nations peoples and communities.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This process will include regular assessments and reviews to monitor the strategy's progress and impact. By collecting data and feedback, we will ensure it meets its objectives and delivers positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander screen practitioners. Ongoing evaluation will enable us to make necessary adjustments and improvements, keeping the strategy effective and responsive to the needs of these practitioners.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander screen practitioners throughout the rollout process to ensure their voices are heard, respected and actioned. Foster collaboration with First Nations communities to guarantee the strategy is aligned with their needs and aspirations.



■ IMAGE CREDIT: SISTAS IN MINING

CONTACT

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