# 2023–24 FINANCIAL YEAR OVERVIEW





Screen Queensland's purpose is to grow the screen industry to be a significant contributor to the economic and cultural wellbeing of Queensland. Screen Queensland invests in people and projects to grow a creative, innovative and successful screen industry, and delivers an active screen culture across the state.

#### 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 own narratives to promote inclusion, collaboration and authenticity. Always was, always will be.

Front cover: Behind the scenes on season two of *Troppo* (Perpetual Entertainment)

This page: Behind the scenes on *First Weapons* (Blackfella Films and Inkey Media)



All figures noted in this overview, including Queensland Production Expenditure (QPE) and employment opportunities, are for productions and projects approved by Screen Queensland within the 2023–24 financial year.

Queensland Production Expenditure (QPE) refers to the direct economic impact that productions and games have while being created in Queensland and/or by Queenslandbased companies or individuals. This figure is determined by funds spent or projected to be injected within the state, through local services, resources and wages for Queensland residents.

NOTE: All QPE and employment figures are approximate, as estimated at the time of publishing.

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"The future has never been brighter for film, television and games production in Queensland"

# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

The Queensland Government's long-term investment in the growth of the State's screen sector continues to support significant creative and economic outcomes, including sharing our local stories to global audiences. In 2023–24, investment through Screen Queensland supported 83 films, series and digital games, representing an increase of more than 30 per cent on the previous year. These projects generated an estimated \$493 million in local expenditure, supporting small businesses across a range of industries and creating almost 6000 employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

A continued focus on local development has further bolstered the sector's capacity during the year to keep pace with increasing demand from producers and publishers seeking to realise their projects in the State.

Screen Queensland's commitment to elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island arts and stories was reinforced in 2023–24, with 16 First Nations-led screen projects and 36 practitioners supported.

The opening of the \$12.6 million Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns facility in April 2024 delivered a vital new home for screen production in Far North Queensland, and will generate jobs and significant long-tern economic benefits for the region.

Highly competitive incentives for production, post-production and games development continue to ensure Queensland is a destination of choice, while signature industry events such as Screen Forever and the AACTA Awards and Festival shine a spotlight on this state and help build our international reputation as a screen industry leader.

Delivering on the Advance Queensland Screen Industry and Creative Together 10-year roadmaps, the investment by the Queensland Government in the sector through Screen Queensland highlights our commitment to statewide industry development to ensure a cultural, creative and economic legacy for this State.

The future has never been brighter for film, television and games production in Queensland. I congratulate the Screen Queensland Board and staff for their achievements in the past 12 months.

Opportunities and momentum continue to grow for local practitioners to build sustainable careers bringing Queensland's screen stories to life. Their work helps to celebrate our cultural identity and stunning natural environment, sharing the best of Queensland with the world.

#### Leeanne Enoch MP

Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The last financial year has resulted in another period of significant growth across the state's screen sector, including locally led productions, digital games and post-production services.

The 2023–24 reporting period also featured some remarkable milestones that have further cemented Queensland as a major production hub and showcased our industry's talented practitioners on a global stage.

It was with incredible pride that we opened Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns in April 2024 and welcomed the local community into this vibrant new home for screen production in North and Far North Queensland. The expansion of our studio network

# "The World Premiere of *Boy Swallows Universe* reminded us of all the immense power of screen to connect audiences near and far with a homegrown story full of heart"

will bring more of the economic and employment benefits of our sector to this region as demand to film in the sunshine state only continues to grow.

The January 2024 World Premiere of *Boy Swallows Universe* reminded us of all the immense power of screen to connect audiences near and far with a homegrown story full of heart. This acclaimed Netflix series brought 1980s Brisbane to life in an extraordinary manner and was a testament to the skill and artistry of our local screen practitioners.

We revived our signature industry event in August 2023 and In the Frame: Screen Queensland Practitioners Forum attracted a full house to the State Library of Queensland. The program applied a local focus to screen production and featured some of Queensland's leading producers and creatives who shared insights about how they've built sustainable careers and project slates here in the sunshine state.

With the support of the Queensland Government, Screen Queensland has continued to invest in production attraction and games development through our incentive programs. Funding and grants programs as well as initiatives, including the new \$3 million Business Enterprise fund, also ensured that local practitioners were supported to build their skills and experience, accelerate their projects and have widespread industry access to attract further investment and distribution.

There are many ways to consider the impact of Screen Queensland's work, including through important lenses such as creativity, career opportunities and our state's cultural identity, but it also of note that one of the measures set out in this review is return-on-investment—and for every \$1 invested in the screen sector, the agency returned \$10.41 to the Queensland economy.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank CEO Jacqui Feeney for her fine leadership and congratulate the entire Screen Queensland team for all they do to foster enduring pathways for the thousands of Queenslanders who work right across our sector.

I'd also like to acknowledge my fellow Board member for their invaluable knowledge, skills, commitment and support as well as the Queensland Government and the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for the Arts, for their continued and vital support for Screen Queensland and the wider industry.

**The Honourable Roslyn Atkinson AO** Screen Queensland Chair



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This review highlights the many strengths of the Queensland screen sector, which continues to shine on a national and international level, but there are also several 'firsts' for our organisation of which I'm most proud.

Establishing a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit ensures that First Nations perspectives and opportunities are considered right across our operations, while a new dedicated focus on Online Content has been introduced to support creatives in this space with expertise, talent development and funding.

Our commitment to more keenly prioritising homegrown films, series and games was reflected in other strategic areas, including our updated guidelines for the Development and Screen Finance

# "The Queensland screen sector continues to shine on a national and international level"

funds, providing more proactive support for our local sector; introducing our \$3 million Business Enterprise fund to assist Queensland production companies to expand their operations and generate more local Intellectual Property; and our enhanced local Games Grants funding.

Local production continued at a steady pace in 2023–24 but generated a 55.7 per cent increase in expenditure as our Queensland-led projects grow in ambition and scale.

We also saw a 59 per cent rise in the number of films and series in development—new slate funding as part of our Development Fund guidelines update will only strengthen the quality of projects from our local sector.

Our investment in games development continues to pay dividends with a marked increase in job creation, including in the indie space which accounted for a 133 per cent rise in the number of games supported through our Games Grants fund.

Queensland was unfortunately not immune to the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike, with *Mortal Kombat 2* and *Apples Never Fall* halting production for four months. It was indeed a challenging and uncertain time for our crews, but international confidence in Queensland as a production destination of choice remained strong. Buoyed by the Federal Government's Location Offset increase to 30 percent and ongoing Queensland Government support through the Production Attraction Strategy, Screen Queensland secured 11 attracted projects in 2023–24. This included the largest-ever Queensland-made series, with season two of Legendary Entertainment's *Monarch: Legacy of Monsters* filming through to the end of 2024.

Demand for Queensland post-production companies, driven by the Post, Digital and Visual Effects Incentive, resulted in a 40 per cent surge in supported projects and 80 per cent rise in local expenditure—suggesting that our state has even further potential to capitalise on this lucrative market.

Screen Queensland is grateful to forge ever-closer relationships with national organisations as well as our government partners at Arts Queensland, Tourism and Events Queensland, Trade and Investment Queensland and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training.

I'd like to thank our Board for their commitment to the sector and guidance to the organisation and to my incredible team for their passion and drive to help screen practitioners across the state to flourish.

#### Jacqui Feeney

Screen Queensland CEO



The cast of **Boy Swallows Universe** with author Trent Dalton at the World Premiere in Brisbane, image courtesy of Netflix



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: 2023–24 FINANCIAL YEAR

Screen Queensland approved support for 83 film and series productions and games in the 2023–24 financial year — an increase of 31.7 per cent. Once completed, these projects will generate an estimated \$493 million for the Queensland economy and create up to 6,000 local employment opportunities.

With a return of \$10.41 for every dollar invested by Screen Queensland, the state's screen economy continues to pay dividends for taxpayers while fuelling a sector that provides a vital platform for homegrown stories, jobs and services for the creative industries, all while entertaining and inspiring audiences here and around the world. The 2023–24 financial year was marked by a 42.7 per cent rise in employment across film, series and games projects, a record-breaking \$69 million influx in QPE from Post, Digital and Visual Effects projects (more than double the \$31.6 million in 2022–23) and the number of supported digital games rising from 18 to 31 in just one year.

It was a particularly strong year for new Queensland-led films and series, with projects supported by the Screen Finance Fund achieving a robust \$59.8 million in QPE, while there was a 59 per cent annual increase in the number of Development Fund titles. The agency's commitment to underpinning this growth with greater opportunities for local production companies is highlighted in the new \$3 million, three-year Business Enterprise fund to foster strong retention of Queensland Intellectual Property. ► 5,909 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CREATED THROUGH SUPPORTED PRODUCTIONS AND GAMES

**\$493M** IN ESTIMATED QUEENSLAND PRODUCTION AND DIGITAL GAMES EXPENDITURE

RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT: FOR EVERY SI INVESTED IN PRODUCTIONS AND GAMES, SCREEN QUEENSLAND RETURNED SI 0.441 TO THE STATE ECONOMY

Jana McKinnon in season two of **Black Snow** (Goalpost Pictures)

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# 20 QUEENSLAND-MADE FILMS AND SERIES \$59.8M IN ESTIMATED QUEENSLAND PRODUCTION EXPENDITURE

30 GAMES SUPPORTED \$15,5M IN ESTIMATED QUEENSLAND DIGITAL GAMES EXPENDITURE POST, DIGITAL & VISUAL EFFECTS PROJECTS **\$69** IN ESTIMATED QUEENSLAND PRODUCTION EXPENDITURE

**30** TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES SUPPORTED **232 QUEENSLAND PRACTITIONERS** +60 ATTACHMENTS

2 INDUSTRY EVENTS DELIVERED UPSKILLING AND CONNECTING 1,100 QUEENSLAND PRACTITIONERS

ATTRACTED PRODUCTIONS (S) \$345.8M IN ESTIMATED QUEENSLAND PRODUCTION EXPENDITURE

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROJECTS SUPPORTED PRACTITIONERS SUPPORTED THROUGH INITIATIVES AND GRANTS



**138** RECIPIENTS SUPPORTED TO ATTEND 12 AUSTRALIAN AND 21 INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY MARKETS +15 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

319 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

CREEN QUEENSLAND | 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR OVERVIE

# TESTIMONIALS

#### **Annette Bening**

#### Actor, Apples Never Fall

"Australia is heavenly. It's a beautiful place and the crews were superb... I loved it."

#### Sam Neill

#### Actor, Apples Never Fall

"What's not to love about the Gold Coast? There is no winter. We shot at a great studio, and we had extraordinary production design. It's weirdly like you're on holiday and at work at the same time."

#### John Quaintance

#### Showrunner and Executive Producer, Good Cop/Bad Cop

"I chose to shoot in Queensland because I saw firsthand what I'd already heard from friends who had based productions there—the facilities are first class, the talent pool in front of and behind the camera is deep, and everyone I met was welcoming and excited to help us make our show."

#### Chloe Rickard

#### Executive Producer, Good Cop/Bad Cop

"Screen Queensland's global focus and exceptional Production Attraction team have worked hard to secure our production, and we are thrilled with the level of government support. We're delighted to have found studio partners in Gold Coast-based Village Roadshow Studios and a rich pool of highly talented Queensland cast and crew."

#### **Jen Conroy**

#### Executive Producer, Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire

"The incentives, the locations, the great facilities. But for me, it's really the crew—the best in the world, honestly. I've shot all over and to be able to come back to this crew that we've gone to time and time again, seeing them feels like family you know. But also, they are very, very talented at what they do."

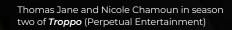


Behind the scenes on Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (Legendary Pictures)

Sam Neill on set of *Apples Never Fall* (NBCUniversal and Matchbox Pictures)







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# INVESTING IN QUEENSLAND SCREEN STORIES

# **SCREEN FINANCE FUND**

#### **20 PRODUCTIONS**

INCLUDING 10 SCRIPTED FEATURE FILMS, 3 SCRIPTED SERIES AND 7 FACTUAL PROJECTS

#### **1,178 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

# \$59.8 MILLION INJECTED INTO THE STATE ECONOMY

The number of locally-led films and series in production remained steady in the 2023–24 financial year, however the level of local expenditure by those projects increased substantially by 55.7 per cent, contributing an additional \$21.4 million into the state's economy. Of the 20 productions supported by the Screen Finance Fund, 16 came from Queensland-based companies.



#### SCRIPTED FEATURE FILMS

- A Royal Proposal: A Royal In Paradise II Jaggi Entertainment
- A Vintage Christmas Jaggi Entertainment
- · Beast of War Bronte Pictures
- He Loves Me Not Fraser Coast Films
- How to Make Gravy Warner Bros. International Television Australia
- · Mistletoe Moments Jaggi Entertainment
- Spit Tracking Films
- Unannounced production Imposter Syndrome
- Unannounced productions Jaggi Entertainment x3

#### **SCRIPTED SERIES**

- Black Snow (Season Two) Goalpost Television
- Darby and Joan (Season Two) CJZ
- Rock Island Mysteries (Season Three) Fremantle Australia

#### FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

- · Hinckley: I Shot the President Glass Engine
- · Unannounced production: WildBear Entertainment

#### FACTUAL SERIES

- · Dreaming Big Wirrim Media
- Unannounced productions: WildBear Entertainment x3 🗖

# INVESTING IN QUEENSLAND SCREEN STORIES continued

#### **DEVELOPMENT FUND**

#### **\$745K IN FUNDING**

#### **63 PROJECTS**

27 SCRIPTED FEATURE FILMS 18 SCRIPTED SERIES 14 FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES 3 FACTUAL SERIES 1 TELEVISION SPECIAL

## 91% LED BY QUEENSLAND-BASED COMPANIES

The 2023–24 financial year was marked by a significant increase in local projects in development, with Screen Queensland supporting a 59 per cent higher volume of productions than during the previous reporting period. Notably, the number of feature documentaries doubled, while scripted feature films almost tripled. Of the 63 projects receiving Development funding, 91 per cent were from Queensland-based companies.

#### SCRIPTED FEATURE FILMS

- Alice Triptych Pictures
- Bidjara Girl Wirrim Media
- Blind Date Nudge Co Studio
- Boofhead Jake Moss
- · Boy Girl Wall Big & Little Films
- · Breakin' Silence Nicoletta Sagripanti
- · Call of the Warrigal Wirrim Media
- · Code of Silence Inkey Media
- Encircled Shayne Armstrong
- · Ghost Bird EJ Garrett
- · Half Moon Cay Hoodlum Entertainment
- Headless Pictures in Paradise Development
- · Life's Too Short Hoodlum Entertainment
- Miriam Came Home Amy Parry and Sean Lynch
- Pools Luisa Martin
- Posthumous Imposter Syndrome
- · Ray of Sunshine Tilt Media & Entertainment
- Seven Snipers Sandra Sciberras
- Skippy Southern Light Global Entertainment
- Star Atlas Grace Uther
- Thaya (Older Brother) Euraba Films
- · The Monster Hunter Shaun Hume
- The Yarrabah Brass Band Yarrabah Films
- There Are Creatures Here Shaun Hume
- Train Dogs Stewart and Wall Entertainment
- Unannounced project Hooligan Animation

#### **SCRIPTED SERIES**

- · Beautiful Crime Hoodlum Entertainment
- Fat Rollz Good Apples Pictures
- Love in the Time of Coronavirus David Giles
- Nana Magic Uraine Roelofs
- Pleasing Josephine Moving Floor
- Proudfoot & Friends Proudfoot Productions
- Romance is Dead Blackfisch Films
- Seventy-Seven Moving Floor
- The Everything Show Luke Tierney
- The Painters Kevin Spink
- Toowoomba Damien Power
- · Under the Influence Rhapsody Films
- Which Way Goalpost Television
- · Wintering Anthony Mullins
- Wrath Moving Floor
- Xing Xing Ludo Studio
- Young Blood Princess Pictures
- Unannounced project Wooden Horse

#### **FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES**

- · Amphitrite Mags Scholes
- · Cadenza Nicholas Lin
- Frontline Rangers New Dream Productions
- Lethal Autonomous Weapons on Trial Disruptor Studios
- · Love Rights Inkey Media
- Mission Oz Onion TV
- Moonshot Matt Blyth Media
- Red White & U Onion TV
- **Replica** Axel Rise Films
- Terra Futura Orange Entertainment Co.
- · The Brain Garden Storyland
- The Final Season Onion TV
- · The Gold Nalu Productions
- Tongam: Roar of the River Jari Productions

#### **FACTUAL SERIES**

- · Fire Country WildBear Entertainment
- Top End Vets Down Under WildBear
  Entertainment
- Treasure Hunters Down Under WildBear
   Entertainment

#### **TELEVISION SPECIAL**

• Seasons of Yugambeh Bacon Factory Films



# INVESTING IN QUEENSLAND SCREEN PRACTITIONERS

## **MARKET AND TRAVEL GRANTS**

## **\$267K IN FUNDING**

# 138 RECIPIENTS SUPPORTED TO ATTEND IN-PERSON AND ONLINE EVENTS

## 12 AUSTRALIAN AND 20 INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

## 15 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Screen Queensland's Market and Travel Fund supported 138 practitioners from 102 teams to attend domestic and international markets during the 2023–24 financial year, an increase of almost 75 per cent from the previous reporting period. As well as recognising that access to industry decision makers is critical, the agency also expanded the fund from a focus on slate pitching to provide assistance for Queensland practitioners to undertake professional development opportunities.

In keeping with Screen Queensland's strong commitment to diversity, approximately 87 per cent of Market and Travel Grant recipients included people from diverse backgrounds. Through the fund, Queensland screen practitioners and games developers were able to attend markets and programs around Australia, as well as major international industry events in Asia, Europe, the UK and US.

#### **AUSTRALIAN MARKETS**

- AACTA Awards and Festival
- Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC)
- · AIDC Regionality Cairns
- Australian Children's Content Summit
- Australian International Movie Convention
- Games Connect Asia Pacific
- In the Frame: Screen Queensland Practitioners Forum
- MIFF 37° South Market
- Regional to Global Screen Forum
- Screen Forever
- SXSW Sydney
- Unreal Fest Gold Coast

#### **INTERNATIONAL MARKETS**

- Annecy International Animation Film Festival
- · Austin Film Festival
- CNEX Chinese Doc Forum
- · Content London
- European Film Market
- · Festival de Cannes
- · Game Developers Conference
- Gamescom
- Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival
- Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival
- Jackson Wild Summit
- Kidscreen Summit
- · London Screenwriters Festival and PitchFest
- Marché du Film -- Festival de Cannes
- MIPCOM Cannes
- Sheffield Doc Fest
- Sportel Monaco
- · Sundance Film Festival
- Sunny Side of the Doc
- The World Animation Summit
- The World Congress of Science and Factual Producers

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- AACTA Awards and Festival
- Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC)
- AIDC Indigenous Creators Program
- Australian Directors Guild Awards
- Biennale College La Biennale di Venezia
- Charlie's Co-working Hub LA
- Crossing Borders Film Lab Georgia
- Doc Edge New Zealand
- Flickerfest International Short Film Festival
- Future Vision Summit
- Interstate writers room
- Marché du Film Festival de Cannes
- Platform Lab
- SXSW Austin

**Below L-R:** Fossil Diggers VR at Gamescom 2023, Germany David Cook (New Dream Productions) Tam Sainbsury and Jeremy Standord (Fraser Coast Films)



Snoee Samia (Mana Film Productions) at Marché du Film – Festival de Cannes 2024



# INVESTING IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SCREEN PRACTITIONERS

#### **16 PROJECTS SUPPORTED**

#### 11 RECIPIENTS RECEIVED MARKET AND TRAVEL FUND SUPPORT

## 25 PRACTITIONERS SUPPORTED THROUGH INITIATIVES

Screen Queensland deepened its commitment to uplifting First Nations voices across the screen industry with the appointment of Danielle Ah Boo in October 2023 as the Head of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit. This newly created role reports directly to the agency's Chief Executive Officer, ensuring that Screen Queensland is focused on elevating and accelerating opportunities for First Nations storytelling right across its operations.

Priorities for the dedicated unit include delivering the screen agency's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy 2024–34, which has been developed through extensive consultation with First Nations practitioners and community representatives. The RAP and First Nations strategy will be released in the first half of the 2024–25 financial year. A number of films and series led by First Nations practitioners released in the reporting period, including Inkey Media's acclaimed *Rebel with a Cause* documentary series which premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival before its national debut on SBS and NITV, as did Brown Cabs and Kalori Productions' award-winning *Katele (Mudskipper)* and *Tastes of the Tropics: Troppo's Kitchen* from Far North Queensland's Pandamonium Films. Ivan Sen's award-winning feature film *Limbo* also premiered on ABC TV and iview, along with Blackfella Films and Inkey Media's factual series *First Weapons*.

#### **SCREEN FINANCE FUND**

 Dreaming Big Wirrim Media Richard Jameson, Abraham Byrne Jameson, Andrew Dillon

#### **DEVELOPMENT FUND**

- **Bidjara Girl** Wirrim Media Richard Jameson, Jodie Bell
- Call of the Warrigal Wirrim Media Richard Jameson, Abraham Byrne Jameson, Sasha Parlett
- Code of Silence Inkey Media
   Dena Mouna-Curtis, Sam Paynter

- Fire Country WildBear Entertainment
   John Harvey, Jason de Santolo, Victor Steffensen
- Frontline Rangers New Dream Productions David Cook, Mirii Dynevor
- Ghost Bird EJ Garrett
   EJ Garrett, Lisa Fuller, Chantelle Murray
- Love Rights Inkey Media
   Dena Mouna-Curtis, Matt Scholten
- **Nana Magic** Uraine Roelofs Uraine Roelofs, Richard Jameson, Felix Kerry
- Proudfoot & Friends Proudfoot Productions
   Lucas Proudfoot, Samantha Alexis Laughton
- **Seasons of Yugambeh** Bacon Factory Films Dean Gibson, Kaylene Butler, Karina Hogan
- *Seventy-Seven* Moving Floor Hunter Page-Lochard
- **Star Atlas** Grace Uther Grace Uther, Sam Uther
- Thaya (Older Brother) Euraba Films Ivan Sen
- Which Way Goalpost Television Kaylene Butler
- **The Yarrabah Brass Band** Yarrabah Films Mitchell Stanley, Bjorn Stewart, Kodie Bedford



#### **INITIATIVES**

First Nations practitioners from Queensland were supported to expand their skills and industry experience through a host of initiatives in 2023–24 including Channel Lab: YouTube Accelerator, Film Intensive Script to Screen, NQ Enterprise, SBS Emerging Writers Incubator, Screenworks Careers Pathways Program, SheDoc, Tastes of the Tropics, Writers Write and more. Some highlights included:

#### Authentic NO

Four First Nations filmmakers from North and Far North Queensland—Josaphine Seale, Alden Lyall, Garth Edwards and Cedwa Whyte—have been supported to develop 3–5-minute microfilms by Screen Queensland in partnership with Screenworks and ABC. The projects are receiving funding and mentoring support through Screen Queensland's North Queensland Regional Program and are focused on local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identities and the impact they are making in their communities.

Below L-R: Behind the scenes on *Katale* (Mudskipper) (Brown Cabs) Behind the scenes on *First Weapons* (Blackfella Films and Inkey Media) Pat O'Shane in Rebel with a Cause (Inkey Media)

#### She Directs

Rhianna Malezer and Kelly Baxter were selected as the Queensland participants for this three-day intensive director's lab designed for First Nations women and gender diverse people facilitated by Beck Cole (Deadloch, We Are Still Here). She Directs was run by BLACKapple in collaboration with Common Ground, Screenrights and Screen Australia with support from Screen Queensland.

#### Sunny Coast Showdown – Smiley

Screen Queensland proudly supported production of the First Nations project selected for the 2024 Sunny Coast Showdown, a talent development initiative progressing local emerging filmmakers and crew. Beverley Marcusson's Smiley followed on from the previous year's production *Skate or* Cry which went on to win several awards at the LA Film Festival. As well as production funding through Screen Queensland, Beverley also received mentoring from local First Nations filmmaker John Harvey (Brown Cabs).







# INVESTING IN QUEENSLAND SCREEN PRACTITIONERS

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

#### **\$3.1 MILLION IN FUNDING**

#### **35 INITIATIVES**

>1,100 ATTENDEES AT 11 INDUSTRY EVENTS

## **60 ATTACHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Screen Queensland funded 35 initiatives in 2023–24, providing talent development and business expansion opportunities for emerging and mid-career practitioners through workshops, mentorships, industry placements and hands-on skills training programs. Practitioners worked across animation, film, series, digital games and online content creation supported by industry experts and partner organisations to uplift capability and experience right across the Queensland screen sector.

Equitable access and representation is a priority for Screen Queensland in delivering initiatives and participants included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as Queenslanders from regional and remote locations, cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, low socio-economic status, older people, women, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and practitioners with disability.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Business Enterprise**

Screen Queensland's \$3 million, three-year Business Enterprise fund was created to assist local screen businesses to attract, develop and expand, as part of the agency's commitment to supporting the creation and retention of local Intellectual Property. Emerging and established businesses were encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 per year to employ more staff, invest in innovation, pursue expansion and secure new financing and partnership opportunities.

#### **Bus Stop Films Inclusive Producers Attachment**

Screen Queensland supported Queensland practitioner Harry Sabulis to work alongside Bus Stop's students and facilitators to prioritise on-set inclusivity and accessibility on two short films made in Brisbane. The program offers emerging producers the opportunity to work as attachments on films made through Bus Stop's acclaimed Accessible Film Studies Program which provides training and employment pathways for people with disability to work in the screen sector.

#### Channel Lab: YouTube Accelerator

Channel Lab is the new program introduced by Screen Queensland in 2024 to cultivate the talent and skills of local online creators, to assist them to keep pace with this rapidly growing area of the screen sector and ensure Queensland screen stories are optimised to reach a global audience. 25 participants from 21 online channels are being supported to complete a 16-week YouTube Accelerator program of masterclasses and mentoring delivered in partnership with Queensland studio Changer and supported by YouTube.

## SheDoc

In partnership with Documentary Australia, Screen Queensland funded six Queensland women working in factual filmmaking to boost their careers with tailored, self-directed development opportunities. Recipients included experienced practitioners to build leadership skills, transition from scripted to factual production and from producing to directing. The initiative is also supporting regionally based, early career filmmakers to create projects with purpose, tell important local stories and uplift First Nations voices.

#### FURTHER INITIATIVES:

- · Australians in Film: Charlie's Lab
- Australians in Film: Global
   Producers Exchange
- · Australians in Film: Talent Gateway
- · Australians in Film: Untapped
- BLACKApple Productions: SheDirects
- · Channel Lab: Short Cuts
- Digital Games Pitch Training
- SBS Emerging Writers Incubator
- She Directs
- Sunny Coast Showdown: Crew Accelerator
- Wattpad WEBTOON Studios Adaptations
- Writers Write

#### **FILM INTENSIVE SCRIPT TO SCREEN**

Screen Queensland launched the inaugural Film Intensive Script to Screen (FISS) initiative in October 2023 as a pilot program in Cairns to foster and accelerate entry-level career pathways for below-the-line crew.

Forty-two new and emerging screen practitioners from North and Far North Queensland were selected for training and mentorship by highly experienced local industry professionals to build hands-on filmmaking experience through a series of workshops and intensives, culminating in the production of a series of short films.

The FISS program concluded in May 2024, coinciding with the launch of Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns. FISS achieved all key performance indicators, which included 66 per cent of participants going on to secure further screen industry employment after completing the initiative, significantly boosting the region's local crew base with more diverse representation. The partners and mentors also worked with Screen Queensland to identify gaps improvements to training below-the-line crew and establishing potential pathways to industry.

FISS was supported by the Queensland Government through the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training's Workforce Connect fund and delivered in partnership with Essential Screen Skills, Kolperi Outback Filmmaking and Screen Well.

Below: FISS participants and mentors





#### **ATTACHMENT PROGRAM**

Screen Queensland created paid placement opportunities for 60 emerging practitioners on supported films and series in 2023–24 to expand the state's pipeline of experienced talent. Working on projects funded through Screen Finance, Production Attraction and the Post, Digital and Visual Effects (PDV) Incentive the Attachment Program enabled participants to be paired with industry experts and mentored to expand their skill set. More than a third of the attachments reported that they had been rehired as a result of their work during the program.

Responding to industry demand, the Attachment Program created opportunities within the following departments:

- Accounting
- Animation
- Art
- Camera
- Content creation
- Costume
- DirectingEditing
  - iting
- Hair and make-up

- Locations
- Producing
- Script
- Showrunning
- Sound
- Sustainability
- · VFX
- Writing

# INVESTING IN QUEENSLAND SCREEN PRACTITIONERS continued

# **INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

More than 1,100 people attended events delivered by Screen Queensland in the 2023–24 financial year. A year-round engagement program of presentations, panel discussions, networking events and online webinars connected screen practitioners from across the state with industry leaders and each other.

Highlights included the return of the agency's annual signature event, relaunched as In the Frame: Screen Queensland Practitioners Forum on 24 August 2023, which featured inspiring and insightful panel discussions with some of Queensland's most successful production companies.

The red carpet was rolled out in Far North Queensland for a spectacular celebration to officially open Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns on 24 April 2024, featuring community Elders, Queensland Government representatives, media as well as local and national industry leaders.

#### Online events

- In Conversation with *La Brea's* Mark Wareham
- In Conversation with Land of Bad's David Frigerio
- In Conversation with Mortal Kombat 2's
   E. Bennett Walsh
- In Conversation for National Reconciliation Week

#### Metro events

- Black Coffee Morning at Screen Queensland Studios, Brisbane
- In the Frame: Screen Queensland Practitioners Forum
- · SBS Meet the Broadcasters
- Screen Queensland Studios, Brisbane tour and networking
- Screen Queensland Studios Virtual Production Show and Tell

#### **Regional events**

- Industry meet and greet at Gold Coast Film Festival
- Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns Official Opening

A further two events were delivered through the North Queensland Regional Program.

Left: Official Opening of Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns Below: In the Frame: Screen Queensland Practitioners Forum







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#### NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL PROGRAM

Screen Queensland continued its commitment to building screen sector capacity and capability in North and Far North Queensland through the North Queensland Regional Program during 2023–24.

Highlights included skills development and mentoring opportunities for above- and belowthe-line practitioners, as well as the agency's first dedicated initiative to support the region's burgeoning online creator community.

In its third iteration, the \$250,000 NQ Enterprise fund supported four local screen businesses to enhance and expand their operations over a 12-month period, with Biopixel, Kite Fish Film, Millstream Productions and Pandamonium Films receiving up to \$75,000 each.

#### INITIATIVES

- Authentic NQ
- Note-taking workshop with Libby Butler
- NQ Animation Bootcamp
- NQ Discovering New Online Voices
- NQ Enterprise
- NQ Screen Skills: Assistant Camera workshop
- NQ Screen Skills: Fundamentals of Factual Forum
- Screenworks Career Pathways Program

#### **EVENTS**

- NQ New Online Voices Forum, Cairns
- NQ Screen Forum, Townsville

All images: Tastes of the Tropics, courtesy of Screenworks

#### TASTES OF THE TROPICS

The *Tastes of the Tropics* series premiered on SBS Food in March 2024, delighting audiences with three tantalising episodes exploring the unique cuisine, cultures and communities of North and Far North Queensland.

Delivered by Screen Queensland in partnership with Screenworks, in association with SBS and supported by Cutting Edge, *Tastes of the Tropics* provided three emerging to mid-career production teams with funding, mentoring and post-production assistance to deliver broadcastquality factual programming.



# INVESTING IN DIGITAL GAMES

#### **30 GAMES SUPPORTED**

#### **263 LOCAL JOBS**

## \$15.5 MILLION INJECTED INTO THE STATE ECONOMY

## 25 GAMES DEVELOPERS SUPPORTED THROUGH MARKET AND TRAVEL GRANTS

Screen Queensland's support for locally-made digital games increased by 66 per cent in the 2023–24 financial year, with substantial growth driving the indie games sector including a 133 per cent rise in projects funded through Games Grants.

Renewed confidence in the Queensland games sector was also reflected in significant jobs growth, with Screen Queensland-supported projects across both the Digital Games Incentive and Games Grants creating more than 100 additional full-time employment opportunities than in the previous reporting period, a growth rate of 68.5 per cent over 12 months.

Interest from international publishers and platforms in local games projects was also strong during the reporting period, with games developers supported through Market and Travel Grants to take 15 projects to trade events such as the Game Developers Conference (US), Gamescom (Germany) and Games Connect Asia Pacific in Melbourne.

#### **DIGITAL GAMES INCENTIVE**

- · Carmen Sandiego Gameloft Brisbane
- Cozy Caravan 5 Lives Studios
- · Go-Go Town! Prideful Sloth
- Len's Island Flow Studios
- Max Mustard Toast Interactive
- Unannounced project Gameloft Brisbane
- Unannounced project PlaySide North
- Unannounced project x2 ►

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# INVESTING IN DIGITAL GAMES continued

## **GAMES GRANTS**

- Apothecary of City X Lemon Jolly
- · Catto's Post Office in Shambles Studio
- Feed the Deep Luke Muscat
- · Frogreign Arakanpixel
- Janet DeMornay is a Slumlord (and a Witch) Fuzzy Ghost
- Key Fairy Owl Machine
- Loggerhead Affordable\_Cat
- · Mist Forge Lunarcorp
- Momento Fat Alien Cat x Nomo Studio
- · On Point Actuator Digital
- Schrodinger's Cat Burglar Abandoned Sheep
- · Servonauts MAXART
- Slumbering Woods Chunky Quail
- TFC: The Fertile Crescent Wield Interactive
- Treegaze Cove Games with Wings
- Vanguard Exiles (Square Spy) The Tea Division
- Unannounced project Devil Juice Studio
- Unannounced project Everplay Games
- Unannounced project Jair Wallace
- Unannounced project Lil Elephant Studios
- Unannounced project Saltpunk Studio 🗖



# INVESTING IN DIGITAL GAMES continued

## **GAMES RESIDENCY**

Screen Queensland continued its successful Games Residency program for a second year, welcoming a new cohort of 15 emerging games developers to accelerate their skills and business experience over a 12-month period.

Commencing in January 2024, the participants have been receiving mentoring from industry leaders, business support to enable the creation of innovative new games in Screen Queensland's co-working studio space, the SQ Hub. With income support through Workforce Australia Self-Employment Assistance Provider, Birdifi Bridge, the cohort has been able to focus on their projects and building their industry networks.

#### **2023 GAMES RESIDENTS**

- · Scarlett Ainsworth
- Tex Barnes
- Mars Bleach
- Miguel Boura
- David Chaseling
- Anya Collett
- Andrew Dowsett
- Jesse Duke

**Below:** 2023 Games Residents and Screen Queensland staff at the Australian Game Developer Awards

Corey Horne

· James Knight

Alana McAnulty

• Emily Wilkinson

Dylvan Van Beek

David Williams

· Coen Andrew Hooper





#### MOMENTO FAT ALIEN CAT X NOMO STUDIO

One of the breakout successes of the inaugural Games Residency program from 2023 was cozy game *Momento*. The cozy game was born directly from the residency with Nomo Studio's Jasmine Phillips joining forces with Fat Alien Cat's Jessica Lyon and Julian Beiboer.

*Momento's* compelling decorator game play and beautiful art design quickly attracted widespread industry attention, including profiles from international news sites such as GamesRadar+ and global games showcase Wholesome Snack before it debuted on Steam.

Screen Queensland has continued to propel Momento's progression towards what will be a highly anticipated release, with Games Grants as well as travel funding, in partnership with Trade and Investment Queensland, to present at the prestigious 2024 Gamescom conference in Germany.

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# **PRODUCTION ATTRACTION**

## **PRODUCTION ATTRACTION STRATEGY**

#### **11 PRODUCTIONS SUPPORTED**

- 1 LOCAL
- 3 INTERSTATE
- 7 INTERNATIONAL

# 3,437 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUEENSLAND CAST AND CREW

## \$346 MILLION INJECTED INTO THE STATE ECONOMY

Queensland's international reputation as a production destination of choice has grown significantly in recent years and despite the worldwide impact of the SAG-AFTRA and Writers Guild of America workforce strikes, there has been a steady stream of attracted productions coming into the sunshine state.





The 2023–24 financial year achieved a 37.5 per cent increase in the number of high-end productions secured through Screen Queensland Production Attraction Strategy, contributing to a 28 per cent rise in local employment opportunities for local cast, crew and creatives. While the US strikes disrupted the production pipeline, Queensland Production Expenditure remained strong, with overall growth of 144 per cent since 2021–22 testament to the state's winning combination of competitive incentives, renowned crew base, stunning locations and world-class studios and post-production facilities.

Productions secured for the state during this reporting period include season two of *Monarch: Legacy of Monsters* from Legendary Entertainment, which is not only the fourth 'Monsterverse' production from the acclaimed studio but also the largest-ever series to be filmed in Queensland.

- Aussie Shore Paramount+ and MTV
   Entertainment Studios
- Dangerous Animals Brouhaha Entertainment
- **Deadloch (Season Two)** Guesswork TV and Amazon Prime
- **Good Cop/Bad Cop** Future Shack and Jungle Entertainment
- Monarch: Legacy of Monsters (Season Two)
   Legendary Entertainment and Apple+
- The Bluff Amazon MGM Studios and AGBO
- Unannounced production Amazon MGM Studios
- Unannounced production Never Sleep
  Productions
- Unannounced production Nickel City Pictures and A Higher Standard
- Unannounced production Story Bridge Films
- Unannounced production Warner Bros. International Television Australia ■

Left: On set of *Eden* (Imagine Entertainment and AGC Studios) L-R: Sharon Miller (Line Producer), Kirsten Herring (Arts Queensland), The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP (Minister for the Arts), Ron Howard (Director), Jacqui Feeney (Screen Queensland), Bill Connor (Producer, 1st Assistant Director), Naomi Wenck (Screen Queensland). Behind: Stu Carl (Camera Grip). Image by Jasin Boland



# **PRODUCTION ATTRACTION continued**

#### **POST-PRODUCTION**

#### **31 PDV PROJECTS SUPPORTED**

## \$69 MILLION INJECTED INTO THE STATE ECONOMY

The number of projects supported by Screen Queensland's Post, Digital and Visual Effects (PDV) Incentive grew by over 40 per cent in the past financial year, while QPE more than doubled.

Since the PDV Incentive was expanded in 2021–22, post-production expenditure in Queensland from local, interstate and international producers has grown from \$38.5 million to more than \$69 million—an increase of almost 80 percent that in turn has created new industry jobs and attracted several new companies to the state.

- A Royal Proposal: A Royal In Paradise II Jaggi Entertainment Serve Chilled
- A *Time Capsule* Jaggi Entertainment Serve Chilled
- A Vintage Christmas Jaggi Entertainment Serve Chilled
- Baby Alive! (Season Four) Hasbro Australia
   Pixel Zoo
- Good Cop/Bad Cop Future Shack and Jungle Entertainment Cutting Edge

- How to Make Gravy Warner Bros. International Television Australia The Post Lounge
- *Knuckles* Paramount Pictures Rising Sun Pictures
- Last King of the Cross (Season Two) Helium Pictures
   Chop Shop Post and The Post Lounge
- Mistletoe Moments (Designing Christmas)
   Jaggi Entertainment
   Serve Chilled
- Mortal Kombat 2 New Line Cinema and Warner Bros. Pictures Rising Sun Pictures
- Muster Dogs (Season Three) Ambience Entertainment The Production Mill
- Piece by Piece Pure Imagination Studios
   ModelFarm
- Pout Pout Fish Like A Photon Creative and MiMO Studios
   Cosmic Dino Studio and The Post Lounge
- Rainbow High (Season Five) MGA
   Entertainment
   Pixel Zoo
- Rock Island Mysteries (Season Three)
   Fremantle Australia
   The Post Lounge
- **Sonic the Hedgehog** Paramount Pictures Rising Sun Pictures
- **The Bluff** Amazon MGM Studios and AGBO Spectrum (and others tbc)

- The Fall Guy Universal Studios and K25 Productions Rising Sun Pictures
- Universal Basic Guys Princess Bento Freelance providers
- Zip and the Tiny Sprouts WonderSprouts Fade in Studio
- Unannounced production Robot Communications Inc Alt.VFX
- Unannounced production Blossom Films/Made Up Stories Alt.VFX
- Unannounced production Curiosity Ink Media and partners Cosmic Dino Studio
- Unannounced production Netflix Flying Bark Production
- Unannounced production Princess Bento Freelance providers
- Unannounced production Thrills and Spills Gabba Post
- Unannounced productions x2 MGA Entertainment Pixel Zoo
- Unannounced production Atlas Entertainment PROXi Virtual Production
- Unannounced productions x2 Jaggi Entertainment Serve Chilled ■

Ryan Gosling in **The Fall Guy** (Universal Pictures and K25 Productions) with post-production work by Rising Sun Pictures 15.12

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SCREEN CULTURE FUND

# **33 FESTIVALS AND EVENTS \$1 MILLION IN FUNDING**

# > 88,600 AUDIENCE

The Screen Culture Fund supported 33 screen industry events across the state, with a total cumulative audience of more than 88,600 people.

From internationally recognised events such as the Asia Pacific Screen Awards to short film programs in regional communities, the fund invested in a wide range of film and games festivals, screenings and award ceremonies that celebrated the best in screen content with audiences right across the state.

The Screen Culture Fund also supports conferences that offer vital opportunities for Queensland screen practitioners to present and pitch their work to industry leaders.

#### FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 2023–24 Location

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS 2023-24	Location
AACTA Awards and Festival	Gold Coast
AFI & AACTA Screening Program	Brisbane, Sydney and online
AIDC	Melbourne
AIDC Regionality	Cairns
Alliance Française French Film Festival	Brisbane and Southport
Asia Pacific Screen Awards and Forum	Gold Coast
Asia Pacific Young Audience Award	Brisbane, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich and Rockhampton
Australian Feature Film Summit	Gold Coast and online
Australian Independent Film Festival	Gold Coast
Australian International Movie Convention	Gold Coast
Australian Screen Industry Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey Launch	Brisbane
Better World Film and Design Festival	Caloundra, Maroochydore and Noosa
Brisbane International Film Festival	Brisbane
Brisbane 48 Hour Film Festival	Brisbane
Brisbane Festival	Brisbane
Bus Stop Films' Brisbane Showcase	Brisbane
CrewCon	Online
Flickerfest Queensland Tour	Brisbane
Gold Coast Film Festival	Gold Coast
Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival	Gympie
Heart of Gold's Golden Evenings, Golden Days	Gympie, Kandanga, Pomona and Rainbow Beach
Iranian Film Festival	Brisbane
Irish Film Festival	Brisbane
Mackay International Film Festival	Mackay
MIFF 37 Degrees South	Melbourne
Port Shorts Film Festival	Port Douglas
QMusic: Bigsound – Simon Franglen (Avatar)	Brisbane
QMusic: Music for Screen nominee event	Brisbane
Queensland Games Festival	Brisbane
Screen Forever	Gold Coast
Screen Scape	Cairns, Chillagoe, Cooktown, Hopevale, Laura and Mareeba
Sydney Travelling Film Festival	Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Southport, Toowoomba and Townsville
Taiwan Film Festival	Brisbane
The Vision Splendid Outback Film Festival	Winton
Underdog Film Festival	Logan
Understory Film Festival	Cairns





#### **AACTA AWARDS AND FESTIVAL**

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) hosted an incredible celebration of film, television and entertainment in Queensland with the inaugural AACTA Awards and Festival running 7–11 February 2024.

The program featured 110 events including screenings, panels, workshops and a careers expo and attracted more than 10,000 industry professionals, film enthusiasts and the wider community to HOTA (Home of the Arts) over the five days. All eyes and the world's media turned to the Gold Coast for the star-studded AACTA Awards ceremony which included Margot Robbie, Cate Blanchett, Simon Baker, Patrick Brammall, Harriet Dyer, Rob Collins, Joel Edgerton, Leah Purcell, Anna Torv, and *Eden* director Ron Howard, who had just finished filming locally.

The AACTA Awards and Festival was proudly supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and Screen Queensland, and Experience Gold Coast.

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# SCREEN QUEENSLAND STUDIOS

#### BRISBANE

The 2023–24 financial year saw a range of projects utilise the facilities at Screen Queensland Studios, Brisbane, including 18 film and series productions, music videos and commercials. Some highlights were:

- A Royal Proposal: A Royal in Paradise II
   Jaggi Entertainment
- Troppo (Season Two) Troppo Productions
- · Zombie Plane Radioactive Pictures

Screen Queensland Studios, Brisbane was also home to several tenancies drawn from across the industry including Action Vehicles, Gavnaction Film Support, Jaggi Entertainment and Metal Pig Productions.

Below: Behind the scenes on A Royal Proposal: A Royal in Paradise II (Jaggi Entertainment)

## CAIRNS

On 24 April 2024, Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns was officially opened by Minister for the Arts, The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP. The \$12.6 million studio is set to become a vital hub for the North and Far North Queensland regions and lure more valuable productions to Queensland.

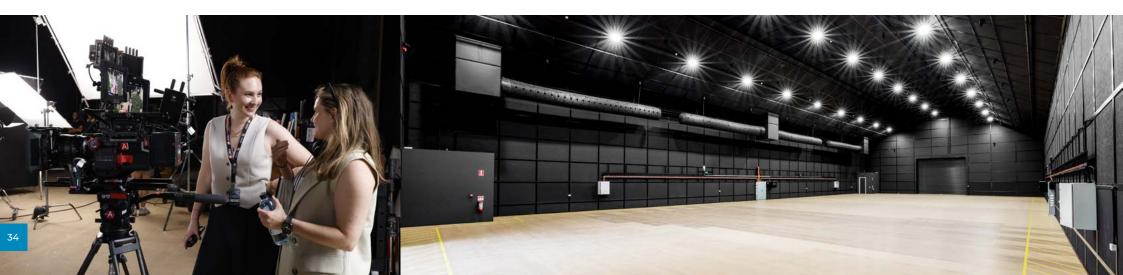
Construction commenced in March 2023 by Cairns-based company Richard Field Constructions, supporting around 300 employment opportunities for local workers and contractors. The complex includes:

- one sound stage 1,070 sq metres (11,517 sq ft)
- production offices
- editing suites
- sound recording studio
- construction and costume areas
- 88 car spaces.

Event spaces and creative tenancies ensure that Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns is also a welcoming home for the local creative community.

The inaugural creative tenancies have been secured by three local Cairns businesses acclaimed First Nations production company Lone Star Productions, casting agency Platinum Talent Management and AV specialists Wallfly Conferences & Events — and expanding interstate business, camera and equipment providers Lemac Film & Digital.

Cameras rolled on the sound stage shortly after the official opening, with reality series *Aussie Shore* (Paramount+ and MTV Entertainment Studios) taking advantage of the new studio to film cast interviews as well as utilise production offices and other facilities.



Official Opening of Screen Queensland Studios, Cairns





Faraway Downs (Bazmark)



