



Speech by

Hon. M. FOLEY

MEMBER FOR YERONGA

Hansard 10 November 1998

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
Australian Film Industry Awards

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (9.51 a.m.), by leave: I wish to bring to the attention of this House the magnificent achievements of Queensland's film and television industry at the 1998 Australian Film Industry Awards last Saturday night. In particular, I wish to congratulate Queensland actor Deborah Mailman, who won the Australian film industry's best actress accolade.

Mr McGrady: Where is she from?

Mr FOLEY: I note the interjection of the Minister for Mines and Energy. She is, in fact, from Mount Isa and is shooting her next film in Yeronga, which is to her great credit.

In winning her award, this talented Queenslander has also made history as the first indigenous actor to achieve such recognition within a highly competitive industry. The film which brought Deborah Mailman such professional success, appropriately named *Radiance*, brings to the attention of Australian and overseas film-makers and audiences not just a great home-grown talent, but a great home-grown location. *Radiance* was filmed entirely in Queensland at Agnes Water and Hervey Bay. So with this film, Queensland wins not once but twice, as the world becomes aware not only of our acting talent, but our unique landscape.

It is gratifying that Ms Mailman's next film appearance will be even closer to home. In January, she will appear in the Brisbane-made film *Bored Olives*. This \$1m film will be made on location in Brisbane, around West End and within the garden suburbs of the electorate of Yeronga.

Mr Connor: How much did you have to pay?

Mr FOLEY: I note the interjection of the member for Nerang. He is quite correct; Yeronga is rapidly becoming recognised as the centre of the cultural universe, and I thank him for his interjection.

Again, this film will showcase Queensland talent. Both its producer Bruce Redman and scriptwriter Stephen Davis are Brisbane residents. Queensland won again at the AFI awards with the success of film-maker Kriv Stenders, a former Annerley resident, who won the award for best short fiction film with *Two/Out*. Cairns writer Evan Clarry took yet another award for Queensland, with best screenplay in a short fiction film for his script for *Mates*.

Queensland's outstanding performance at this year's Australian Film Industry Awards fulfils the glowing predictions of the Australian Film Commission, which earlier this year, based on our booming production activity, opened an office in Brisbane. Since 1991, \$520m has been spent on film and television production in Queensland, and this is spread around the State. Recent production locations include the Gold Coast with *Komodo* at \$1.4m, St George with *Paperback Hero* at \$4.3m, Roma with Mr Pumpkin's *Big Night Out* at \$800,000 and Mission Beach, which is the site of a four-hour mini TV series *Tribe*, which will spend \$3m in Queensland, generating an economic impact of \$8.6m and creating 84 jobs.

This return mirrors the value of the State Government's \$23.4m annual investment in the film and television industry, through its Pacific Film and Television Corporation. This \$23.4m budget will generate a return of \$120m in production revenue to the State over each of the next three years. This means a massive flow-on in revenue, jobs and allied investment in the State, including several hundred new businesses set up as a direct result of film and TV production.

We must applaud Queenslanders like Deborah Mailman and all her dedicated colleagues in this important industry for their contribution to Queensland's continuing national and international success and for the resultant boost to jobs in Queensland's film industry.
