



Speech by

Hon. M. FOLEY

MEMBER FOR YERONGA

Hansard 10 November 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Brisbane International Film Festival

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (9.43 a.m.), by leave: The advent of the Fox movie studios in Sydney last weekend is a timely reminder of the opportunities opening up for Queensland's booming film and television industry. This bright future is outlined in the report just completed on the recent Brisbane International Film Festival, held over 11 days from 29 July to 8 August.

The success of this eighth festival justifies our allocation of \$250,000 in the 1999-2000 Budget to pursue the feasibility of a Brisbane film studio at Tennyson to promote local and domestic film and television production. Such a studio will complement the excellent job done by Warner Roadshow's Gold Coast film studios, established during the Goss Labor Government, which successfully launched Queensland into the international film business.

Queensland's job growth in the film industry is now 72%—higher than that of any other State. Combined domestic and international film production in Queensland from 1992 to 1998 was \$572m, with an economic impact of \$1.63 billion and the creation of 12,012 jobs in our State. Queensland now attracts 30% of the Australian film and television drama market and, on current trends, annual film and TV production will increase to \$120m, with a combined economic impact of \$344.4m for the State.

Last month I announced a new slate of 10 film and television projects worth \$95m to Queensland, including an all-Queensland film, a German mini-series, a new Walt Disney company movie and several telemovies for North American networks, including Paramount's UPN.

Reflecting the growth of Queensland's film and television industry, attendances at the 1999 festival were up approximately 10% on last year, with a total of 25,857 attending official festival events. A new record was set for a single day's attendance, with 4,200 people attending screenings on Friday, 6 August. Despite this growth in audience, which saw total ticket revenue at the festival reach \$174,920, it was gratifying that ticket prices were maintained at the same levels as for 1998. The corporate sector, too, flocked to sponsor it, despite the tough market realities experienced in 1999, with a total of \$138,000 in cash sponsorship and \$475,117 in in-kind support. Such support in a year notable for corporate stringency was particularly gratifying.

The festival's role as a showcase for Queensland's creative and pre and post production capabilities continued to expand with leading film industry figures from the USA, Germany, New Zealand and Hong Kong attending this year. Queensland cinema enjoyed prominence through the festival's opening night event, with a strong commitment to the films of Australia and the Asia-Pacific region in the world cinema component.

The 1999 Chauvel award for outstanding contribution to Australian feature film-making was presented to Bob Ellis by Lord Mayor Jim Soorley at a civic reception at the Brisbane Hilton, recognition of the festival's tourism role for Brisbane as well as Queensland. This recognition by local government and business of the festival's contribution to local tourism and revenues was mirrored by an outstanding media response from the Courier-Mail and a special half-hour program run twice by Channel 7 before the festival.
