



Speech by

**Hon. M. FOLEY**

**MEMBER FOR YERONGA**

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Hansard 8 December 1999

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Pacific Film and Television Commission**

**Hon. M. J. FOLEY** (Yeronga—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (10.02 a.m.), by leave: This morning I table the 1998-99 annual report of the Pacific Film and Television Commission giving an operational overview of the commission's activities and achievements during this period, with detailed and audited statements. From these facts and figures emerges a rosy future for Queensland film and television in terms of jobs growth, regional involvement and international investment for this State. It heralds initiatives that will effect a ground shift in Australia's film and television landscape, positioning Queensland as a major location and production centre for domestic and overseas film.

As the PFTC 1998-99 annual report states at page 3—

"A feasibility study is already underway for a Brisbane film studio. Such a studio, if successful, promises a huge local economic boost for the local industry."

Such has been the growth in local production, we are already at a point where there is a need for affordable studio space to complement the Gold Coast Warner/Roadshow Movie World studios. Offshore production company Coote-Hayes has already set up a Queensland production office to handle 10 projects, including the television series *Beastmaster* and *Lost World* and movies of the week for Paramount's UPN network. In 1998-99 movies like *Paperback Hero* and *Dear Claudia* gave Queensland's outback and Barrier Reef landscape the kind of international exposure that makes our film industry a tourism showcase. Documentary making also surged, with 12 documentaries produced in Queensland over the last 18 months. Our production levels have grown, cumulatively, a massive 500% since 1993.

Some \$105m in domestic and international film production budgets was spent in Queensland in 1998-99 creating jobs, training and economic flow on. State Government incentives through PFTC have secured for Queensland a large majority of cast and crew jobs including heads of department and, in many cases, lead roles in many of those projects. Pacific Film and Television Commission's \$9.5m 1998-99 budget returned Queensland a cost benefit ratio of 31 to one. That means that every \$1m PFTC invested in film and television in 1998-99 returned an impact of \$31m and around 228 jobs to Queensland. So successful has the Queensland Government film funding model proved that other States are studying it with a view to adopting the same model.

In 1998-99 the PFTC took the State Government's regional strategy to heart, extending its charter for film festivals and events outside the capital city with festivals in Cairns, Mackay and Townsville in 1999. In 1998-99 the PFTC also embraced the Government's theme of reconciliation through initiatives like *First Film* and a documentary project addressing this important goal. This is part of a larger process of reconciliation being engaged in by the cultural statutory authorities within the Arts portfolio in the lead-up to the Centenary of Federation.

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