

Question on Notice
No. 819
Asked on 11 August 2020

Dr C Rowan asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the funding allocated to Screen Queensland, specifically SQ Studios—

Will the Premier advise the (a) the utilisation and spare capacity of this facility by month since it opened in January 2019 and (b) the cost of the facility and any offsets?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has worked hard to grow the Screen Industry in Queensland, attracting major productions and bringing some of the biggest filmmakers in Hollywood to our shores.

Prior to the global pandemic we had a continuous and unprecedented pipeline of productions filming across the state. To meet the burgeoning demand from local and international productions we opened a new studio production facility in Brisbane in January 2019 to be able to host productions including low-mid budget feature films, television series, streaming video on demand series, television commercials and events.

In its first year, SQ Studios hosted a major Paramount Pictures film creating around 260 local jobs and injecting more than \$29 million into the local economy, as well as a number of television commercials, music videos and workshops and tours for secondary and tertiary students. The occupancy rates during this period were due to a range of factors including matching studio availability with production schedules and the availability of Federal Government incentives.

Unfortunately, the global pandemic hit the screen industry around the world hard with many productions forced to cease. Queensland is not immune and studios including the SQ Studios had to close during this time.

But it's because we're continuing to manage the health response and because we have a strong economic recovery plan, we're now one of the safest places to film, not only in Australia, but in the world.

While the industry remains in hiatus in other parts of the world, we already have cameras rolling again on several productions around the state.

In July 2020, SQ Studios re-opened from COVID-19 restrictions and a year-long tenancy was recently negotiated.

I am advised by the Chair of the Screen Queensland Board that Screen Queensland has recently received an unprecedented amount of interest from international and national studios who are wanting to bring their productions to Queensland. Queensland is considered one of the few places in the world where production can safely recommence filming (while following public health directives from Queensland Health), and Screen Queensland very much looks forward to embracing the opportunities that this brings to the screen sector in our State.

Establishing the Screen Queensland Studios (SQ Studios) at Hemmant is a key action that has been delivered from the Advance Queensland Screen Industry 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

Utilisation of SQ Studios by month was:

January 2019 – 86%. February 2019 – 100%. March 2019 – 100%. April 2019 – 100%. May 2019 – 100%. June 2019 – 100%. July 2019 – 72%. August 2019 – 17%. September 2019 – 23%. October 2019 – 17%. November 2019 – 24%. December 2019 – 17%. January 2020 – 13%. February 2020 – 13%. March 2020 – June 2020 the studios were unavailable because of COVID-19. July 2020 – 23%.

All revenue and expenditure associated with SQ Studios is published annually in Screen Queensland's annual financial statements.