



# NAMBUCCA SHIRE COUNCIL

## NAMBUCCA FILM & TELEVISION POLICY

**Responsibility:** CORPORATE SERVICES

**Adopted:** 19 July 2007  
**Last reviewed by Council:** 20 October 2010

### 1.0 Policy objective

To define Council's stance on film making activities in the Shire.

### 2.0 Related legislation

### 3.0 Definitions

### 4.0 Policy statement

- 1 That Council adopt the Film and Television Policy developed by the Screen Links Manager.
- 2 That Council waiver any existing application and permit fee, making filming fee-free for local companies and community groups to encourage business growth and industry development locally.
- 3 That local companies will be required to lodge their Certificate of Currency for public liability insurance with Council at the start of each year and submit a filming permit at the time of each shoot for ease and convenience.

### 5 Summary

At present in the Nambucca Shire Council a film maker would make application to Council by way of an Activities on Councils Land Application form and pay a minimal fee and produce the certificate of currency of public liability.

Council has no fee structure for the shooting of films within the Shire other than activities on public land.

The minimal fee set in the proposed Film Policy for Council's to charge for film making is a standard set fee of \$200.00.

### 6 Discussion

The Screen Links (Formally Film Mid North Coast Armidale) project commenced in 2003 with the Councils within the region supporting the initiative of the Regional Development Board to develop a central point of contact across the regions councils including the New England to manage and attract new investment into the region in relation to the Film and Television industry. The Film Office is an initiative of the Department of State and Regional Development to establish 7 regional film offices across NSW by providing 50% funding over 3 years.

By the end of 2004 the Nambucca Shire Council ceased to commit funds to further support the Screen Links project due to the limited identified outcomes achieved from the previous funds committed to the project and the increase in the Australian dollar which started the downturn in film production in Australia from overseas film makers.

The Nambucca Shire Council indicated that the only support for this project was where the Manager of Business Development could give in-kind contribution towards the Screen Links project in support of the ongoing industry development for Bowraville Verandah Post Film group.

In 2006 Enterprise Training Company (ETC) commenced as the major sponsor of the Screen Links project providing office space and project funding for the program. On the 8 February 2006, Screen Links launched the Screen Media Nambucca at the Bowraville Theatre and from that launch a local film and TV network commenced and has actively been engaging in networks and training.

In 2007 the manager of Screen Links developed Film Policies for implementation across the region to develop a consistent approach in dealing with and managing film shooting. Screen Links is updating the Filming Policies in the LGA's of Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Bellingen and Coffs Harbour and establishing Film Policies in the Nambucca, Greater Taree and Armidale. The Film policies are based on the NSW Department of Local Government Filming Protocol and in-line with Filming Policies adopted across most of the regions of NSW.

That a separate filming application is not necessary for filming special event activities which occur within a local special event. In the discussions with the client about the special event, it becomes standard procedure to ask about filming activity related to the event. If there is non-news shooting (e.g. corporate video shoot) occurring within the event that the client be given a copy of the filming policy to alert them of the filming standards in the Local Government Area and that the activity be noted on the special event application but does not incur a separate fee or application. However if the event is staged to shoot a program DVD then the event should be regarded as a filming activity (e.g. a one-off concert which is staged to do a live recording for DVD, broadcast sales).

## **7 Consultation**

The Manager for Screen Links has met with all of the Council General Managers and Business Development Manager or equivalent associated with the Mid North Coast and Armidale areas to discuss the development and implementation of the proposed film policy.

## **8 Sustainability Assessment**

### **8.1 Environment**

Environmental sustainability in film production. No impact on the environment.

### **8.2 Social**

This policy is intended to improve the social impact of film and television production locally and to be utilised as an industry development initiative.

### **8.3 Economic**

The film policy is intended and designed to deliver consistency in film and television production across the region to stream line the application process between council boundaries creating economically viable film production.

### **8.4 Risk**

There is no risk to Council.

## **9 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications.

