



Office of Hon Christopher Finlayson

Attorney-General

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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NZ Screen Production and Development Assoc (SPADA)
The Screen Directors Guild of NZ (SDGNZ)
The NZ Writers Guild (NZWG)
Nga Aho Whakaari – Maori in Film, Video & Television Inc (NAW)
Women in Film & Television (WIFT)

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Dear Industry Members

Thank you for writing to me with your collective response to the Review of the New Zealand Film Commission by Sir Peter Jackson and David Court.

The review report has provided an excellent starting point for my officials to begin developing a broader work programme encompassing the whole screen sector. Your initial feedback and willingness to participate in this process is appreciated.

The Review of the NZFC requires a formal government response. The response will indicate which recommendations are best addressed by the NZFC, and which will be considered by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Many of the issues you highlight in your letter will be within the Commission's domain such as redefining the relationship between film makers and the NZFC, working towards a Talent Partnership model, and making changes in the area of script development. The NZFC will also be responsible for any proposed changes to its Short Film and Escalator schemes.

The government response will indicate the government's priority areas of interest and the timeline of the work programme. For example, the Ministry will examine the viability of incentives such as a Box Office Incentive Scheme and a Mezzanine Distribution Fund. This work will be undertaken in consultation with the NZFC and with input from the industry.

I also note your comments regarding the NZFC Board and agree that some board members should be from the industry. I have followed this approach with recent appointments to the Board.

The government has identified the screen industry as a key player in its economic growth agenda. I have, therefore, asked the Ministry for Culture and Heritage to work closely with the Ministry of Economic Development on drafting the government response to the review of the NZFC and also identify broader issues for the sector.

This will involve collaboration in the upcoming reviews of the Screen Production Incentive Fund and the Large Budget Screen Production Grant Scheme.

I expect to report back to Cabinet by the end of November 2010 with the government response and proposed work programme for the following year. I look forward to working with your members to ensure the NZFC is well-equipped to meet the expectations of the government and the industry.

Yours sincerely



Hon Chris Finlayson
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage