



# MEDIA RELEASE

## The Hon Peter Garrett MP

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

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### **SECURING THE FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIAN SCREEN INDUSTRY**

The Rudd Labor Government has secured the future of both the new film body Screen Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive with significant investments which will provide the screen industry with certainty and confidence, Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, said today.

Mr Garrett said Screen Australia will receive almost \$103.0 million in 2008-09, with the National Film and Sound Archive receiving \$105.2 million over four years (including \$25.2 million in 2008-09) in the final step towards its establishment as an independent statutory authority from 1 July 2008.

“The creation of Screen Australia heralds a new era in Australian film and television, and will assist in expanding the potential growth of the sector and increasing employment opportunities for those working in the industry.

“Screen Australia will be a strong, centralised source of funding and today’s announcement is a critical step in ensuring a sustainable and successful local industry,” Mr Garrett said.

Screen Australia will also administer the Producer Offset and the research and statistic functions.

“Following discussion with the agencies and feedback from industry, the government decided that the Australian Film Commission’s research and statistics functions should be transferred to Screen Australia. This will enhance the new agency’s capacity to support the industry by providing high quality, well targeted research and statistical services to screen businesses, government and other stakeholders,” Mr Garrett said.

Mr Garrett said the provision of funding for the National Film and Sound Archive delivered the government’s commitment to establish the Archive as a collecting institution in its own right.

“As well as continuing its important activities in relation to the national audiovisual collection, the government believes it is important that the National Film and Sound Archive has a strong role in public outreach,” Mr Garrett said.

“The decision to establish the National Film and Sound Archive as an independent statutory authority recognises the important role it plays in preserving and promoting the national collection.”

Mr Garrett said the funding included provision for the costs of instituting a new board and CEO.