



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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NEW FILM AGENCIES HERALD EXCITING ERA FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FILM INDUSTRY

Legislation to establish Screen Australia and the National Film and Sound Archive as separate statutory authorities has today been passed by both Houses of the Australian Parliament.

The Government made these election commitments a high priority and the bills are among the first passed by the new Parliament.

Screen Australia will be a strong central funding body, bringing together the Australian Film Commission, the Film Finance Corporation and Film Australia. The National Film and Sound Archive will be separated from the Australian Film Commission and become a national collecting institution in its own right.

The passage of this legislation means that both agencies will be able to begin operation as planned on 1 July this year. I am looking forward to the fresh approach that these newly created agencies will bring to their respective roles.

This is both an exciting and a challenging time for the Australian film and television industry.

Screen Australia will help restore investor confidence and put the industry on a new growth path. It will ensure a strong Australian voice across film, television, documentary and children's programs.

The establishment of the National Film and Sound Archive as a stand-alone agency will protect its independence. I look forward to the Archive building its valuable national collection and expanding its public access and outreach.