



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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NEW FILM BODY ESTABLISHMENT A STEP CLOSER

I have today appointed Ms Lyn Maddock as Interim Chief Executive Officer of Screen Australia, the Government's new film support agency.

Ms Maddock's appointment is the next step in the establishment of Screen Australia, delivering on a key plank in the Rudd Labor Government's plan to revitalise and expand our film and television industry.

Today's announcement follows the passage of legislation in both Houses of the Australian Parliament last week. The new body will begin work on July 1 2008, following the merger of the Australian Film Commission, the Film Finance Corporation and Film Australia.

The creation of Screen Australia heralds a new era in Australian film and television, expanding the potential of the industry and the opportunities for the more than 50,000 people it currently employs.

Screen Australia will be a strong centralised funding body, encouraging greater private investment in Australian film and television and building on the enormous contribution the industry already makes to the Australian economy.

Ms Maddock brings significant management and public policy experience to this new role, having previously overseen the creation of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and currently serving as ACMA Deputy Chair.

As Interim CEO, Ms Maddock will have responsibility for decision making on the operations of Screen Australia before its official commencement. She will manage the merger of the existing agencies ahead of the appointment of the incoming Board and permanent CEO. Ms Maddock's secondment will conclude on July 31 2008.

This is an exciting and challenging time for the Australian film industry. The establishment of Screen Australia is integral to strengthening and building the industry, and I am delighted that Ms Maddock has accepted this appointment.