



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

PG /65

5 May 2008

## **FILM PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE UNDER SCREEN AUSTRALIA UNTIL END OF YEAR**

Existing film agency guidelines for continuing programs will remain in place under Screen Australia until the end of the year, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Mr Peter Garrett MP, said today.

Screen Australia commences on 1 July 2008 following the merger of the Australian Film Commission, the Film Finance Corporation and Film Australia Ltd.

“While Screen Australia will need to develop new policies and programs to address the challenges facing the film industry, I am keen to provide certainty for the industry in the short term while the merger is taking shape and to avoid any hiatus in production activity,” the Minister said.

“This timeframe will also give the new Screen Australia Board, once appointed, time to properly review all of the organisation’s programs and structures. This will ensure they are appropriate to the functions and responsibilities which Screen Australia will have in strengthening the industry through building screen businesses and supporting projects of cultural merit.”

The decision follows a recommendation from Interim CEO of Screen Australia, Lyn Maddock, after consultation with key industry groups over the last month.

Ms Maddock is managing the merger of the existing agencies ahead of the appointment of the incoming Board and permanent CEO.