

18 March 2016

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

Treaty tabled on 9 February 2016: Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Screen Producers Australia was formed by the screen industry to represent large and small enterprises across a diverse production slate of feature film, television and interactive content. We welcome this opportunity to make a submission the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in support of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement.

As the peak industry and trade body, we consult with a membership of more than 400 production businesses in the preparation of our submissions. This consultation is augmented by ongoing discussions with our elected Council and appointed Policy Working Group representatives. Our members employ hundreds of producers, thousands of related practitioners and drive more than \$1.7 billion worth of annual production activity from the independent sector.

On behalf of these businesses we are focused on delivering a healthy commercial environment through ongoing engagement with elements of the labour force, including directors, writers, actors and crew, as well as with broadcasters, distributors and government in all its various forms. This coordinated dialogue ensures that our industry is successful, employment levels are strong and the community's expectations of access to high quality Australian content have been met.

Whilst Screen Producers Australia believes that the starting point for any trade negotiations should be a full cultural carve-out, we understand the challenges of achieving this in the context of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

We are, however, pleased with the outcome for Australia's screen industry with Australia's negotiation team having been able to preserve our existing rights with regard to spectrum management and licensing of broadcasting services, transmission quotas for local content on free-to-air and radio broadcasting services, the provision of subsidies and grants for investment or the use of taxation measures in Australian cultural activity and our international co-production program.

As we understand it, Australia has critically retained the capacity to make interventions it considers appropriate and necessary in the emerging connected, online and mobile digital world to ensure the

availability of Australian content to Australian audiences. Effectively a carve-out for Australian content in this emerging space. In so doing, Australia has avoided extending the more prescriptive outcome of the Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement in this area to additional trading partners.

If you would like to discuss this further please contact Matthew Hancock (Manager, Strategy and Operations) on matthew.hancock@screenproducers.org.au or 02 8076 5878.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hancock', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matthew Hancock
Manager, Strategy and Operations