

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ANNUAL NOMINATIONS TO OPEN FOR SPA PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SPA COUNCIL

7 July 2016: Screen Producers Australia ('SPA') today announced that following four years and five years respectively as members of the SPA Council, President Chris Oliver-Taylor and Vice President Ben Grant will step down ahead of scheduled elections for new Council members.

Nominations for the President and Vice President positions will open on July 8. Nominations for Council members open on August 26.

SPA CEO, Matt Deaner said: "Our industry needs leadership from people like Chris and Ben who are prepared to volunteer their time, energy and wisdom to organisations such as SPA in order to help grow the sector.

"On a personal note, I would like to thank Chris and Ben for their support when I was appointed CEO and for their wise counsel over the years. They have served SPA with diligence and distinction and we are a better organisation for their contribution."

Mr Deaner said the screen industry needs continued engagement and thoughtful leadership from its members across the sector, including the SPA Council, in order to develop cohesive industry and policy frameworks. The SPA Council has an important role to play. Elections for leadership positions in the organisation are held annually and conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission.

Chris Oliver-Taylor, who is Managing Director of Matchbox Pictures, said:

"I have been honored to be the President of SPA and serve on its Council, and I would like to sincerely thank my Vice President Ben Grant, and my many colleagues around the Council table for their advice and support across that time. It is vital that SPA continues to ensure a strong production sector in Australia, working with all stakeholders to actively increase opportunities for producers across all areas of content production. I wish Matt and his exceptional management team all the best for the future."

Ben Grant, who is Managing Director of Goalpost Pictures Australia, said:

“SPA is the peak industry body in our sector and I am proud to have served on the organisation’s leadership team with outgoing President Chris Oliver-Taylor. Chris has made an invaluable contribution over his time on Council. I am confident that I leave my position with the organisation on a solid footing and, in the hands of a talented and dedicated team under Matthew Deaner.”

Mr Oliver-Taylor and Mr Grant said the past two years has seen SPA build membership and take a leadership position in strongly advocating a comprehensive policy framework to Government at a time of immense change and opportunity for the industry.

Both Mr Oliver-Taylor and Mr Grant will continue as active members of SPA and the broader screen industry.

SPA members will shortly receive detailed information about the nomination and voting processes.

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About Screen Producers Australia

Screen Producers Australia unites screen businesses to campaign for a healthy commercial environment and supports the interests of businesses large and small in their production of feature films, television programs, interactive content and games across all genres and formats. Members employ writers, directors, cast and crew; they navigate a range of industrial agreements, commercial arrangements and negotiate rights deals with theatrical distributors, television broadcasters and increasingly, online aggregators.