

FILM INDUSTRY

Statement

HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan) [6.20 pm]: I would like to give a shout-out to Western Australia’s local film industry. A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Prospero Productions in Fremantle. I met with Julia Redwood and Ed Punchard, the co-managing directors of Prospero Productions. I received a “soldier’s five” on WA’s film industry and the film production industry. It never came to me that in Western Australia we had a vibrant film industry that supports a lot of jobs and economic activities. I was very pleased to be educated by two experienced film production gurus to understand the film industry just a little more. In terms of the jobs created by this industry, in the 2012–13 financial year there were 778 full-time equivalent positions in the industry and 1 220 indirect full-time equivalent positions, for a total of 2 007 full-time equivalent positions. Fast-forward five years and in the 2017–18 financial year there were 1 140 direct full-time equivalent positions and also 1 768 indirect full-time positions, for a total of 2 908 full-time positions. In five years, 900 extra jobs were created. According to Screenwest, a turnover of \$15.2 million was provided by Screenwest funding in the 2017–18 financial year, which enabled 105.33 hours of content, including 12 documentary series, eight short dramas, seven short documentaries, four feature dramas, two long documentaries and two scripted television series. This is a great achievement of our local industry in this field. The state government contributed \$7 million, in the form of Lotterywest grants, to support the development of WA’s film, TV and digital media industry. The total funding that the state government has provided to the film industry through Screenwest since 1993 is \$116 million. That was from governments of both political persuasions.

I also wish to note that Prospero Productions, which is a leading independent documentary production company, has been in operation for more than 28 years. During that time it has produced many award-winning documentaries, and among those was one of my favourites, *SAS—The Search For Warriors*. When I watched that documentary many years ago, I had the pleasure of seeing a few people featured in it who had worked with me during my time in the Army Reserve. I would like to congratulate the WA film industry in general, and Prospero Productions in particular, for their contribution and achievement in this field. I am sure its future is bright and it will create a lot more jobs and generate a lot more economic activity in Western Australia.