

Community & Services Committee
15 July 2021

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take 1

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara Film Office Partnership on Great Southern Film and Television Screenwriters Workshop

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

- 1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Community & Services Committee of a partnership between the QLDC Film Office (Film Queenstown Lakes) and production company Great Southern Film and Television on a Screenwriters Workshop.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

- 2 That the Community & Services Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report.

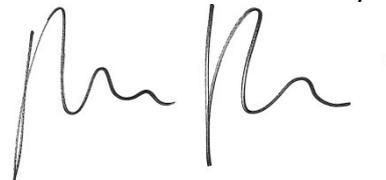
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2/07/2021

Reviewed and Authorised by:



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5/07/2021

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 3 The QLDC Film Office - Film Queenstown Lakes - was established in 2020 as a vehicle for supporting and developing the district's film and television industry as a part of Council's Economic Development unit. The film and television industry is recognised as playing a key role in the district's economic diversification.
- 4 Film Queenstown Lakes was approached in early 2021 by production company Great Southern Film and Television (GSTV) to partner on a Screenwriters Workshop. This Workshop would involve hosting a select group of screenwriters in the district for a four-week programme, with the aim of these writers developing television projects based in or inspired by the Queenstown Lakes District.
- 5 Great Southern Film and Television are a reputable national production company based in Auckland but with a foothold in Queenstown and an interest in developing long-form projects for Queenstown Lakes.
- 6 The idea for this Workshop stemmed from conversations with the local film industry about ways to grow the district's film production pipeline and capabilities. Projects like episodic TV series equal longer shoot times in the district and more consistent work opportunities for locals, so initiatives that encourage the development of these types of projects are strongly supported by the industry.
- 7 There have previously been 'Screenwriters in Residence' programmes hosted by regional screen support organisation, Film Otago Southland, which QLDC has supported. However, this project is distinctive for the commercial industry connections that GSTV bring to the table and in GSTV having the first options to acquire the rights to the resulting projects.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

- 8 The Workshop will involve bringing four screenwriters to the district for a three to four week development workshop. The programme will include: workshops and meetings with industry decision-makers, film location visits, mentoring, and writing time to develop a treatment or series bible for a television project. It will conclude with a pitch session to GSTV executives and a representative from QLDC.
- 9 There will be a nation-wide call out for writers, and the selection committee will be comprised of executives from GSTV and a representative from QLDC.
- 10 The total budget for the Workshop is \$44,000 per year for an initial two years. GSTV and QLDC will each contribute half of this total amount, meaning a commitment of \$22,000 per year for two years from QLDC. This has been issued as a grant from the existing allocated Film Office Operations budget.
- 11 GSTV will have the first option to acquire the rights to the resulting projects. If commercial returns occur on any project resulting from the Workshop, GSTV will use such returns to fully fund the venture for Year 3, 2022-2023.

- 12 The coordination and delivery of the Workshop will be undertaken by GSTV, with Film Queenstown Lakes playing an advisory role.
- 13 Film Queenstown Lakes and GSTV will coordinate on public communications around the Workshop. This partnership has the potential to generate positive public relations for QLDC as an economic diversification initiative.
- 14 An MOU has been agreed upon to govern the partnership between QLDC and GSTV on this project.
- 15 Advice: No options are assessed in this report because the Committee is asked only to note the contents.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 16 This matter is of [low] significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because although economic recovery is important for the whole district, this decision will impact relatively few and it therefore has relatively low community interest. It will not impact the Council's capability and capacity and is consistent with the economic development policy.
- 17 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes district community, some of whom will be employed in the television and film industry, and members of the television and film production industry outside the district.
- 18 The Council has not undertaken any public consultation on this proposal.

> MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA

- 19 The Council has not undertaken specific iwi consultation on this proposal.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

- 20 An assessment of risk is not relevant to this report because it is being provided for information only.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

- 21 The requested amount of \$22,000 per year for two years has been issued as a grant from the existing allocated 'Film Office Operations' budget.

COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

- 22 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
 - Economic Development Strategy

- 23 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.
- 24 This matter is not included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan as the overall impact is minimal.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

25 The recommended option:

- Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. This will be achieved by supporting the growth of the local film and television industry, encouraging local story-telling and supporting the diversification of the district's economy.
- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.