

Victorian Government Response

**Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Inquiry into the cultural and creative industries in Victoria**

December 2025

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Response to recommendations	5
Government investment in Victoria’s cultural and creative industries	6
National Broadcasters role in Victoria’s cultural and creative industries	7

Introduction

The Victorian Government welcomes the final report from the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee's Inquiry into the cultural and creative industries in Victoria (the Inquiry) and extends its gratitude to the Committee and all stakeholders for their work investigating the vital role of Victoria's creative and cultural sector. The Inquiry report acknowledges the important contribution the creative and cultural industries make to our economy, and their profound impact on social cohesion and public wellbeing.

This month the Victorian Government released its latest creative industries strategy, *Creative State 2028*. This strategy recognises and celebrates the social, cultural and economic contributions the creative industries bring to Victoria, and provides a framework for the government's investment in, and work with, the creative industries over the next three years.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring Victoria remains the nation's creative capital and supports the spirit and intent of all 11 recommendations made by the Committee.

Response to recommendations

This response has been prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for Submissions and Responses to Inquiries* (Guidelines).

The following key sets out the five categories of response, which are consistent with the Guidelines.

Key	
Support in full	All elements of the recommendation are supported
Support in part	Some elements of the recommendation are supported
Support in principle	The Victorian Government generally supports the intent or merit of the policy underlining the recommendation, but does not necessarily support the method for achieving the policy
Under review	Further analysis is required for the Victorian Government to determine its position
Not support	The Victorian Government does not support the recommendation

Government investment in Victoria's cultural and creative industries

Recommendation	Responsible agency	Government response
1 The Victorian Government should ensure that Grant programs for the Victorian cultural and creative industries should be indexed to account for CPI increases.	Creative Victoria	Support in principle The Victorian Government, through Creative Victoria, will continue to consider CPI when redesigning and developing new grant programs in the cultural and creative industries
2 Creative Victoria should take steps to reduce the administrative burden of grant programs to ensure such requirements are proportionate to the amount of funding on offer, particularly those grant programs capped at \$20,000 or less.	Creative Victoria	Support in principle The Victorian Government, through Creative Victoria, will review the application and acquittal requirements for programs that are capped at \$20,000 or less and work to reduce administrative requirements where possible.
3 Creative Victoria should release grant calendars in advance, which include all available grant programs, to improve predictability and aid planning in the industries.	Creative Victoria	Support in full The Victorian Government, through Creative Victoria, will maintain and publish an up-to-date calendar of all available Creative Victoria grant programs.

4	The Victorian Government should advocate for the federal cultural funding by government dataset to release state and territory breakdowns.	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in full</p> <p>The Victorian Government will advocate for opportunities to improve data relevant to Victoria. Work is already underway to improve data sharing between Australian jurisdictions.</p>
5	The Victorian Government should advocate for the federal cultural funding by government dataset to release remoteness level or geography breakdowns.	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in full</p> <p>The Victorian Government will advocate for opportunities to improve data relevant to Victoria. Work is already underway to improve data sharing between Australian jurisdictions</p>
National Broadcasters role in Victoria’s cultural and creative industries			
Recommendation		Responsible agency	Government response
6	The Victorian Government advocate to the Federal Government to appoint at least one more Board member from Victoria to the ABC Board to be adequately represented.	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in full</p> <p>The Victorian Government will advocate for the appointment of at least one more Victorian ABC Board member, to ensure that that the ABC reflects the diversity of the Australian community, including geographic diversity.</p>
7	That the Victorian Government advocate to the Federal Government that more ABC jobs be based in Victoria proportionate to Victoria’s population.	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in full</p> <p>The Victorian Government has written to the Federal Government requesting consideration for more ABC jobs to be based in Victoria proportionate to Victoria's population.</p> <p>The Victorian Government notes that the ABC is governed by the Australian <i>Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983 (Cth)</i>, which outlines that the ABC may provide studios at locations approved by the Federal Communications Minister,</p>

but the ABC is not subject to direction by or on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

8 That the Victorian Government should increase funding for its screen and creative agencies to enhance investment opportunities and partnerships with the ABC; and support the national and global competitiveness of Victoria's cultural and creatives industries in content production	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in principle</p> <p>The Victorian Government provided \$475.3 million in 2025-26 to increase the base funding of Victoria's 7 major public facing creative industries agencies.</p> <p>The Victorian Government also provided \$50.2 million for VicScreen in 2025-26 and notes that VicScreen works closely with the ABC. Over the four-year period of <i>Victoria's Screen Industry Strategy 2021-2025</i>, the Victorian Government, through VicScreen, supported over 50 projects commissioned by the ABC, including a large volume of children's content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Newsreader (drama series)• Fisk (comedy series)• This Is Going to Be Big (documentary)• Clean (documentary)• Do Not Watch This Show (children's series)• Crazy Fun Park (children's series)• Wildlifers! (children's series)• Knee High Spies (children's animation)• Planet Lulin (children's series)• Spooky Files (children's series)• The Strange Chores (children's animation)• Little J and Big Cuz (children's animation, First Peoples)• Turn Up The Volume (children's series)• Gold Diggers (comedy series)• White Fever (comedy series)• Bay of Fires (drama series)• The Dark Emu Story (documentary, First Peoples)• Summer Love (drama series)
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savage River (drama series) • Queerstralia (documentary, LBGQTQIA+) <p>VicScreen also supports the development of local content by local creatives, through programs such as Development on Demand and the VicScreen Industry Development program.</p>
9	That the Victorian Government should appeal to the Federal Government to clarify decision-making surrounding the relocation feasibility study for SBS's office to Western Sydney.	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in principle</p> <p>The Victorian Government has written to the Federal Government on options for SBS to increase its footprint and presence in Victoria.</p> <p>The Victorian Government notes that such decisions are a matter for the SBS Board under the <i>Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991 (Cth)</i>.</p>
10	That the Victorian Government advocate to the Federal Government and SBS to establish a physical presence in an appropriately culturally diverse location in Victoria, such as Broadmeadows or Dandenong.	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in principle</p> <p>The Victorian Government has written to the Federal Government on options for SBS to increase its footprint and presence in Victoria.</p> <p>The Victorian Government notes that such decisions are a matter for the SBS Board under the <i>Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991 (Cth)</i>.</p>
11	That the Victorian Government provide targeted funding and financial incentives to the independent production sector to boost content production that represents regional and rural Victoria.	Creative Victoria	<p>Support in principle</p> <p>Over the four-year period of <i>Victoria's Screen Industry Strategy 2021-2025</i>, the Victorian Government, through VicScreen, supported screen content production in regional and rural Victoria through the Victorian Production Fund and Victorian Screen Rebate.</p> <p>Projects filmed in the regions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Country (drama series)

- Fake (drama series)
- Surviving Summer (teenage drama series)
- War Machine (feature)
- The Mongoose (feature)
- The Rooster (feature)
- Foe (feature)
- Force of Nature (feature)
- Inside (feature)