

Environment and Climate Solutions Short Form Documentary Initiative Guidelines

About this initiative

- ABC Factual and Doc Society have partnered on a short form documentary initiative supported by Screen Territory, Screenwest, Screen Tasmania, Screen Queensland and VicScreen. The initiative will invite emerging and early career filmmakers to create a short documentary for ABC TV and ABC iview, with the potential to screen the film at festivals.
- The purpose of the initiative is to provide opportunities for emerging and early career filmmakers to hone their documentary craft and have their credited work seen by a wide audience on the national broadcaster and at festivals. It will also provide an opportunity to develop relationships with ABC Factual Commissioning Editors and Executive Producers, the Doc Society and other industry stakeholders.
- In 2023 the ABC is going big on natural history content. From the depths of the oceans to the open skies and the magnificent creatures who inhabit them, the national broadcaster will shine a spotlight on Australia's unique ecosystems and biodiversity. This will kick start a national conversation across all ABC platforms about both local and national solutions needed to conserve, protect, and regenerate our unique ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate.
- As part of this collaboration there will be an exciting opportunity for emerging and early career filmmakers to produce short form documentaries. These films may focus on people and communities who are designing and acting for a positive future by bringing ecosystems back to life and working on solutions to the climate and environmental challenges we face. These stories will aim to inspire others to see themselves as being part of a solution, providing security, hope and agency.
- The initiative will greenlight and fund production for up to two documentaries from each state or territory, receiving a maximum production budget of \$18,000 each.
- Each of the film makers will participate in a series of online labs led by Malinda Wink and Hollie Fifer from Doc Society. They will also be joined by Teri Calder, ABC Factual Impact & Partnerships Executive Producer and other key executives from the ABC Factual Commissioning team.
- Drawing on Doc Society's global network of specialist expertise in environmental impact documentary storytelling and audience engagement, the labs will be a talent escalator for filmmakers. It is an opportunity to grow connections with a global network of change makers as well as build relationships with ABC Commissioners and Executive Producers who will be mentors through all stages of the film making process.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for ideas that consider the following:

- The film should be 5-10 minutes in length
- Environment and climate solutions focussed character driven stories
- Audience = 18-49
- Tone = enriching, purposeful and inspiring

The successful films will be distributed on ABC TV, TV Plus and ABC iview in 2023.

ABC Factual and Culture's content strives for diversity and representation in all their programming. Inclusivity, diversity, and gender equity are priorities for the ABC, Doc Society and participating state and territory screen agencies. There is an expectation that integrated and meaningful collaboration will occur throughout the creative process. Consider whether your team has the right to tell this particular story and whether your telling of it will be authentic.

Who is eligible?

- Any participating state or territory-based early career or emerging producer/director or producer and director with demonstrated factual program making skills that has created at least 1 film with demonstrated audience reach.

They must also be:

- An Australian citizen or resident
- 18 years of age or older
- Contracted via a company which must be incorporated and carrying on business in Australia, and have its central management and control in a participating state or territory
- Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the Terms of Trade. Read the Terms of Trade for your relevant state or territory agency: [Screen Queensland](#), [Screen Territory](#), [Screenwest](#), [Screen Tasmania](#) and [Vic Screen](#).

How much can you apply for?

- Up to two applicants from each state or territory will be selected to develop and produce their idea. Successful applicants will each be given up to \$18,000.

What materials do you need to submit?

1. Production budget / schedule
2. 1 page outline that includes story overview, possible characters, visuals and aligns with your production budget
3. A short 2-minute piece to camera talking about your project
4. Links to individuals/groups who the film will focus on
5. Details of any access permissions or requirements
6. Key production creatives
7. [ABC Diversity and Inclusion Plan](#)

Enquiries should be directed to: Teri Calder, ABC Factual Executive Producer, Impact & Partnerships:
calder.teri@abc.net.au

When do you need to submit your application by?

- Successful applicants will need to deliver their proposal by **Monday 22 August 2022**.

How do you submit your application?

All proposals need to be submitted via the Doc Society portal.

<https://docsociety.org/climate-shorts-au>

What happens after you apply?

All proposals will be assessed by key executives in the ABC Factual commissioning team in consultation with Doc Society and the relevant state or territory agency. The relevant agency will make the final decision on funded projects from their state and the ABC will make the final decision on projects for ABC broadcast.

If shortlisted, you may be asked to provide further information.

Assessment criteria

When assessing applications for this program the following criteria will be applied:

- The strength, quality and originality of the concept related to the criteria outlined above.
- The potential of the idea to appeal to its target audience.
- The feasibility of the individual or team to complete the project in the required timeframe and within the given budget, as evidenced by the submission.
- The career development benefits of this project for the individual or team, including consideration of diversity.

How long until a decision is made?

- All applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application via email by 9 September 2022.

Who can you talk to in your State or Territory about this program?

Victoria

Grants Officer, VicScreen - [Rachel Duffy](#), 03 9660 3285

Program Manager, VicScreen - [Samantha Dinning](#), Production Executive (Factual Lead), +61 3 9660 3281

Northern Territory

Screen Industry Development Manager, Screen Territory – [Sebastian Angborn](#), +61 8 8999 6302

Western Australia

Documentary Executive, ScreenWest - [Paul Williams](#), +61 8 6169 2116

Queensland

Content Director, Screen Queensland - [Lucy Markovich](#), +61 7 3248 0526

Tasmania

Industry Development Manager, Screen Tasmania - [Danielle McCarthy](#), +61 3 6166 3411

Industry Engagement Officer, Screen Tasmania – [Claudia Holmes](#), +61 3 6166 3421



Legal

- The producer will be required to enter into both a production funding agreement with the relevant state or territory screen agency and a standard license agreement with the ABC.

When do I need to be available for the Doc Society Online Labs?

- There will be 4 online labs in October 2022, one online lab in November 2022 and one online lab in February 2023 (dates TBC). One-on-one mentoring will take place online in November 2022.

When does the film need to be delivered?

- Early April 2023.

What will help your application?

- Read the guidelines and the Terms of Trade of your relevant state or territory agency (see links above under *Who is eligible?*) which set out the core terms on which they conduct their business.
- Review the online application form – make sure you have all required documents ready to be submitted with the application.
- Make sure your application speaks to the Assessment Criteria (see above)
- Submit your application on time. The deadline for this program is **Monday 22 August 2022**.