



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Nicola Willis	Portfolio	Economic Growth
Title of Cabinet paper	Targeted Adjustments to the New Zealand Screen Production Rebate – International	Date to be published	18 November 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
October 2025	Targeted Adjustments to the New Zealand Screen Production Rebate – International	Office of the Minister for Economic Growth
28 October 2025	New Zealand Screen Production Rebate – International: Targeted Adjustments CBC-25-MIN-0055 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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Some information has been withheld for the reasons of commercial information and legal professional privilege.



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

New Zealand Screen Production Rebate–International: Targeted Adjustments

Portfolio **Economic Growth**

On 28 October 2025, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the New Zealand Screen Production Rebate–International (NZSPR–International) is a key government incentive supporting international film and television production in New Zealand, delivering significant economic, employment and skills benefits;
- 2 **noted** that global shifts in screen production and distribution models have made the current NZSPR–International settings less competitive, as other jurisdictions have updated their incentives in response to market changes (e.g. Australia has increased its main rebate rate from 16.5 percent to 30 percent and removed its Above-the-Line cap, with additional state-level incentives offering total support of up to around 40 percent);
- 3 **noted** that New Zealand is losing productions and skilled workers to Australia and elsewhere, with a steep decline in activity showing in data – international production enquiries have fallen by 32 per cent year-on-year, 73 per cent of studio stage space sits empty (with four of six major facilities holding no forward bookings) – indicating a weakening production pipeline and growing risk of permanent talent and skill loss;
- 4 **agreed** to the following four targeted adjustments to the NZSPR–International settings to ensure the scheme remains competitive and effective while fiscally sustainable:
 - 4.1 lower the minimum qualifying spend in New Zealand for films made to be shown in cinemas (theatrical feature films) from \$15 million to \$4 million, bringing it in line with television and streaming formats;
 - 4.2 lower the qualifying spend for theatrical feature films eligible for the 5 percent uplift from \$30 million to \$20 million;
 - 4.3 expand eligibility for the additional 5 percent uplift from international live-action formats to projects that exclusively undertake Post-Production, Digital and Visual Effects (PDV) activities (e.g. editing, sound design, animation and visual effects);
 - 4.4 remove the limit on how much productions can claim for key creative roles (e.g. main actors, directors, producers and writers);
- 5 **noted** the intention to manage the above changes within the multi-year appropriation of \$1.09 billion for NZSPR–International;

- 6 **noted** that the fiscal implications of the above changes will be monitored closely by the New Zealand Film Commission and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, with bi-monthly reporting on scheme performance, including uptake, fiscal impact, and market response;
- 7 **agreed** that all changes to the NZSPR–International settings will come into effect from 1 January 2026;
- 8 **authorised** the Minister for Economic Growth to make final decisions on the points test for PDV Uplift eligibility, in consultation with the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC).

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour (Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts

Officials present from:

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet