



**COLUMBIA TRISTAR
MOTION PICTURE GROUP**

Andrew Z. Davis
President
Production Administration

10202 West Washington Boulevard
Culver City, California 90232-3195

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Environment and Communications References Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee Members,

Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc (**Columbia Pictures**) has been supporting the Australian film industry since 2003, both through shooting movies and commissioning visual effects work. This has resulted in over AU\$420 million in local spend in Australia.

Utilizing the Post Digital and Visual Effects Offset (**PDV Offset**) rebate of 30% of qualifying Australian production expenditure, Columbia contracted visual effects work for *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, *Spider-man: Homecoming*, *Ghostbusters* and *After Earth* to Australian companies such as Iloura in Melbourne and Sydney and Luma Pictures in Melbourne.

Columbia Pictures also utilized the Location Offset, and its predecessor Federal incentive, for the filming of *The Shallows* in Queensland with the support of the Queensland Government, *Ghost Rider* in Victoria and *Stealth* in New South Wales.

Through our Australian theatrical division, we have invested in many Australia productions and Columbia Pictures is currently financing the Australian production of *Peter Rabbit* produced by Animal Logic Entertainment, a production employing over 1500 Australians. *Peter Rabbit* filmed in New South Wales. Animal Logic, Rising Sun Pictures, Cutting Edge, Cumulus and SlateVFX are providing the complex digital effects for this hybrid film.

Australia has all the assets film companies seek in a film production location: world class physical and digital production crew, skilled actors, state of the art facilities and equipment, diverse locations and a safe environment.

While the Producer Offset and PDV Offset are sufficiently competitive to attract projects to Australia, the Location Offset, at its current rate of 16.5%, prevents Columbia Pictures from considering Australia for international productions without a top up grant from the Federal Government to provide a competitive rate of 30%.

At 30%, the Location Offset would be sufficiently competitive and enable Australia to be considered as a potential location for Columbia Pictures' productions.

Columbia Pictures locates its productions in countries and US states that offer competitive incentives. Those jurisdictions include the United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Hungary and the US states of Georgia, New York and Massachusetts. These incentives can range from 25% - 40%.

International productions enable the growth of the Australian film industry's talent base, enable businesses to invest in facilities and position Australia as a key player in the international film industry. Columbia Pictures welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Inquiry and strongly supports the increase of the Location Offset to 30%.

Best,

Andrew Z. Davis

