

**Submission  
No 35**

## **INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

**Organisation:** Screenwave  
**Date Received:** 21 August 2020

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21 August 2020

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Supporting the Stronger Country Communities Fund continuation**

I would like to write in support for the continuation of the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Screenwave is a film and screen culture organisation, organising Coffs Harbour's annual Screenwave International Film Festival – which is home to the national Nextwave youth film education program and the Film Outreach regional film distribution program.

Screenwave, in partnership with Arts Mid North Coast, were successful in the recent round to roll out a program for the next three years, educating young people in Coffs Harbour with filmmaking communication skills, increasing employability, mental health, and cultural outcomes.

The Stronger Country Communities Fund is vital for organisation's like ours. As a regional organisation, it is rare to have funding programs that are available to roll out projects of any great significance. The Stronger Country Communities Fund is – unfortunately – basically it.

For organisations like ours, that run a variety of programs and employ full-time staff, the Stronger Country Communities Fund bolsters our overall viability and sustainability. Being primarily an arts organisations, over half of our work is project-based. Without funding programs like the SCCF, it endangers the ongoing viability of the Screenwave International Film Festival – regional NSW's largest film festival – our national Nextwave youth film education program, and the film distribution services we provide to dozens of regional communities around the country.

The continuance of this vital funding program is vital for regional communities and organisations like ours.

All the best,

**SW**  
**IFF**

PRESENTED BY  
**Ashton**  
DESIGNS

Kind regards,

Dave Horsley  
Director  
Screenwave · Film Outreach Australia