

FILM FRIENDLY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FAQS

screenwest

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WHY ARE THE PRODUCTION'S TIME FRAMES SO SHORT?

Productions will try to provide as much lead time as possible, especially when they need to apply for filming permits and traffic closures/control.

When filming several factors can contribute to last-minute changes e.g. script changes, cast availability, the weather.

WHY HAS THE PRODUCTION CHOSEN A PARTICULAR LOCATION?

A production considers a lot of things before it chooses a location. Creatively the location needs to match the brief and logistically the location needs to be practical for filming. Striking a balance between the two can sometimes be a challenge!

WHAT ABOUT PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE?

The production is responsible for organising its public liability insurance. This insurance covers filming accidents that injure members of the public and property damage caused by the production. The production should be able to provide a copy of their insurance cover upon request.

To note: if a production doesn't have the appropriate permits in place or are breaching permit conditions a production may not be covered by their insurer.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PRODUCTION FILMS WITHOUT A PERMIT OR IS IN BREACH OF PERMIT CONDITIONS?

It is up to the relevant council/shire. As each situation will be different a blanket approach is not recommended. Possible actions may be shutting down filming or issuing a fine.

WHEN IS A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN NEEDED FOR FILMING?

A temporary traffic management plan is needed when filming impacts the use of the road or road reserve. The plan can only be drafted by a registered traffic management company.

WHEN A ROAD IS CLOSED FOR FILMING, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS?

Requirements differ depending on the location and the authorities involved in the permits. Best practice recommends a production sends letters notifying all impacted stakeholders at least five business days before filming. The letter should provide details of the film, the time the road will be closed, who to contact for more information.

If a major road is being closed some local authorities require a variable message board to be installed two weeks out from filming.

WHAT IF THE SHOOT INVOLVES ANIMALS?

Productions working with animals should have a trained animal trainer/wrangler on set who is responsible for the animal's wellbeing and behaviour.

If the animal's action contravenes local bylaws, e.g. dog running off leash in a scene an application for special permissions may be required.

WHAT ABOUT FILMING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY OR LAND? DOES THE PRODUCTION NEED TO INFORM THE LOCAL COUNCIL/SHIRE?

Approval from a local authority is not required for filming that takes place entirely on private property or land. However, as a courtesy the production should inform the local authority. They should also notify surrounding residents and businesses.

If filming is primarily on private land but associated activity occurs on public land, then a filming permit may also need to be sought. For example, running a cable across the footpath from the private property to a generator or managing reserved vehicle parking.

A location agreement between the filmmaker and land/property owner spells out the terms, conditions and fees for the filming.

WHAT IF A SHOOT INVOLVES STUNTS, FIREARMS OR SPECIAL EFFECTS?

Most productions will have a Safety Report, this should be available on request. All safety measures are outlined in the Safety Report and are implemented by the on-set Safety Supervisor/Officer and Stunt Coordinator, Special Effects Supervisor and Armourer.

DO NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS TEAMS NEED FILMING APPROVAL?

News crews do not require approval for filming on public land.