



# MEDIA INDUSTRY - A DEEPER LOOK

The country's breathtaking landscape has inspired Hollywood to turn some famous fantasy novels into great movies! Among some of the favourite feature films shot in New Zealand are Whale Rider (2002), Hunt for the Wilderpeople (2016), The Lord of the Rings Trilogy (2001-2003), The Hobbit Trilogy (2012-2014), Avatar (2009) and Avatar: The Way of Water (2022) to name a few.

Wellington, the capital city of New Zealand, is a thriving mecca for the screen industry. Wellington is home to a hub of world-class production and special effects facilities. Wētā Workshop and Wētā FX have helped create some of the world's most creative and cutting-edge films and television series with leading international film studios.

Some of the natural and commercial advantages of producing films in New Zealand include, stunning locations, reverse seasons extend shooting windows, favourable exchange rates, flexible and expert crew, ground-breaking post-production and visual effects.

## FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The New Zealand Film Commission provides grants (non-repayable funds to be used for a particular purpose), loans, and equity investments to New Zealand filmmakers (a New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or a business registered in New Zealand) and businesses to assist in the development and production of feature films and short films. To be funded, projects generally need to have significant New Zealand content.

Types of funding include the Development and Production Funding, Talent Development Funding, Distribution Funding, International Relations Funding. More information on funding programmes visit <https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/funding-and-support/funding-programmes>

## OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Online or television projects have access to other funding opportunities via Creative New Zealand, NZ On Air and Te Māngai Pāho.

## INCENTIVES FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCTIONS

New Zealand Screen Production Rebate (NZSPR) enables eligible productions to access a 40% cash rebate on Qualifying New Zealand Production Expenditure (QNZPE).

All domestic productions are able to access the NZSPR as well as production funding from the New Zealand Film Commission, New Zealand On Air and Te Māngai Pāho.

For recently announced changes to this rebate (effective from 31 August 2023), transitional provisions, eligible formats and minimum expenditure thresholds, QNZPE, general eligibility requirements, and application process visit <https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/incentives-co-productions/nzspg-nz>

## INCENTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS

NZSPR enables eligible productions to access a 20% cash rebate on QNZPE. A Post Digital and Visual effects (PDV) Rebate is also available. Certain productions can also qualify for an additional 5% uplift where they bring significant benefits to the domestic screen industry and wider economy. Recently announced changes effective from 31 August 2023 see the QNZPE threshold reduced to NZ\$250,000; the "sliding scale" rebate rate has also been removed, meaning all PDV Productions can access a rebate at 20% of QNZPE. Key changes have also been announced to the 5% uplift and are effective from 1 November 2023. For more information visit <https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/incentives-co-productions/nzspg-international>

## CO-PRODUCTIONS

Official co-productions are film and television projects made in accordance with treaties or other formal agreements between New Zealand and other countries. New Zealand currently has treaties or agreements with 17 countries including Australia, China, Singapore and UK. For New Zealand's current co-production agreements, assessment criteria, application process and eligibility requirements visit <https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/incentives-co-productions/co-productions>

All resources relating to the NZSPR and Co-Productions can be found here including guidelines, templates, FAQs and funding information <https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/incentives-co-productions/nzspg-co-production-resources>

## HOW EASY IS IT TO DO BUSINESS IN NEW ZEALAND?

New Zealand crew members are generally self-employed contractors. There are no compulsory union fringe obligations or personal benefits such as holiday pay and health, government levies or union dues. This can be an advantage to New Zealand's competitiveness over other territories such as Australia, Canada, and the US, where these additional costs apply.

New Zealand has a relatively simple, low-cost tax system with no regional or state taxes. Guidelines for the screen industry are available from the New Zealand Inland Revenue.

For more information on structuring your tax affairs contact one of our consultants at Moore Markhams Auckland and/or to discuss business opportunities within the New Zealand Media Sector.



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