



GAMES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. In paying our respects to their Elders, past and present we extend this to acknowledge those who did not live to make Elder status.

We acknowledge their connection to the land, sea, sky and waterways and their unbroken commitment to care for Country for over 40,000 years. By committing to listen deeply to Story and be respectful of Country in our collaborations with Tasmanian Aboriginal People we demonstrate the value of the history, culture and strength of the lived experiences within the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

We will continue to honour their stories, songs, art, and culture, and their aspirations for the future of their people and these lands.

Image: Gordon River,
courtesy Tourism Australia

Copyright notice and disclaimer

Copyright in this publication is owned by the Crown in Right of the State of Tasmania.

Information in this publication is intended for general information only and does not constitute professional advice and should not be relied upon as such. No representation or warranty is made as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of any information in this publication. Readers should make their own enquiries and seek independent professional advice before acting on or relying upon any of the information provided.

The Crown, its officers, employees and agents do not accept liability however arising, including liability for negligence, for any loss resulting from the use of or reliance upon information in this publication.

Images used within this publication remain the property of the copyright holder.

Cover image: *Lighthaze World* by Radiobush

© State of Tasmania, August 2023

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Games Development | 2 |
| 1. Eligibility criteria | 3 |
| 1.1 Applicant | 3 |
| 2. Assessment criteria | 3 |
| 2.1 Assessment criteria | 4 |
| 3. Timeframes | 4 |
| 4. Application process | 4 |
| 5. Resubmitting a project | 5 |
| 6. Appealing a decision | 5 |
| 7. Contracting and payments | 5 |
| 7.1 Other matters | 5 |
| 8. Taxation and financial implications | 6 |
| 9. Acquittal | 6 |
| 9.1 Failure to complete an acquittal | 6 |
| 10. Administration and contact details | 6 |
| 10.1 Note | 7 |
| 11. Publicity of assistance | 7 |
| 12. Right to information | 7 |
| 13. Confidentiality | 7 |
| 14. Personal information protection | 7 |
| 15. Disclosure | 7 |
| 16. Disclaimer | 7 |

Games Development

This program is for the development of video games for all digital platforms, including, but not limited to, consoles, PCs, mobile and tablet.

It encourages Tasmanians to develop, adopt and exploit new and emerging business models for the creation and delivery of compelling screen content, with a focus on the creation and retention of Tasmanian intellectual property.

The program enables applicants to release a finished product or attract further development and/or production investment from the marketplace.

The program encourages applicants to demonstrate an entrepreneurial approach by exploring new and emerging business models and potential revenue streams.

Funding is available for interactive narrative and non-narrative screen projects for all digital platforms. Screen Tasmania can fund projects in two stages:

- Conceptual Design, which may include scoping, character and level design, proof of concept, production of a Games Design Document (GDD), or development of a 'vertical slice' of the project, and
- Production and Release, which is the development and marketing of the finished interactive project to launch and beyond.

Screen Tasmania cannot fund:

- the purchase of equipment or software
- projects that solely re-format traditional media content, or
- interactive screen projects that solely provide utilities or services, education, or information.

There is no reason that a project cannot seek funding under both stages, although Production and Release funding will only be provided once any Conceptual Design funding has been acquitted.

Conceptual design offers a maximum non-recoupable grant of \$20,000 per project and is available for the development of concept/scoping documents and prototypes and/or the production of proof-of-concept or beta content.

The aim of this stage of funding is to prepare the project for raising additional finance for full-scale development.

Production and release can provide a maximum amount of \$50,000 per project where a project is production-ready and its potential end user/target market and revenue streams can be confidently quantified.

Screen Tasmania will not provide more than 50 per cent of the development costs of the project (the value of in-kind services can be included in an applicant's finance plan).

Screen Tasmania will recoup our support at a rate of 25 per cent of revenue until repaid in full with a 10 per cent premium.

However, the grant is only recoupable as sales of the completed and released game return money to the developer. If the game does not return money, Screen Tasmania does not recoup and does not seek any return from the project.

Any income received from sources other than sales of the finished game and additional content released for the finished game do not trigger recoupment of Screen Tasmania's support. This includes crowd-funded donations or so-called 'early access' sales, but do include pre-orders of the finished game.

Larger projects, that seek in excess of \$50,000 of support must apply through the Production Support program. In that program, support is provided as equity investment.

Depending on individual requirements, a Screen Tasmania officer will provide assistance, advice and support to the applicant/team throughout the creative development, packaging and financing stages of the project to support it in advancing into production.

1. Eligibility criteria

For any queries about the eligibility criteria, contact Screen Tasmania on 03 6165 5070 or info@screen.tas.gov.au

Applicants may be asked to supply documentation to support their eligibility claims, as part of the application process, or as part of an audit process. Information supplied by applicants may be subject to authenticity checks using third party software.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria.

1.1 Applicant

The applicant must meet the eligibility criteria detailed in the General Guidelines, and must either:

- be a Tasmanian resident development or production company (although the applicant may be co-developing with a non-Tasmanian partner), or
- for conceptual design only, be a Tasmanian practitioner, as part of a Tasmanian-based team (this does not preclude a Tasmanian-based team working in conjunction with non-Tasmanians).

Projects must:

- be substantially developed in Tasmania or and/or co-developed by a Tasmanian-based studio, and

- include at least one team member with a lead credit in a previously published interactive screen project relevant to the application.

2. Assessment criteria

Applications for Games Development will be assessed by the Screen Tasmania Expert Advisory Group, and the final funding decision will be made by Screen Tasmania, on the recommendation of the STEAG.

In addition to the information detailed in the General Guidelines, all applications will be assessed on the following criteria.

- The strength of any story elements and the quality of the writing; the strength of gameplay elements
- The professional record of the team, whose experience should be commensurate with the amount of funding requested.
- The strength of an identified target audience, identifiable marketing and distribution opportunities, and the potential distribution platforms and revenue streams.
- The scope of the project and the degree to which the concept is innovative, interactive and achievable.

Priority will be given to projects that have marketplace attachment or financial support from other screen agencies.



In-development image of *Fossil Sweeper*
by J Bush Productions

2.1 Additional criteria for Production and Release

- Evidence of potential end user/target audience or evidence of marketplace interest or bona fide investors.
- The relevance of the project to Tasmanian stories or whether the project promotes opportunities for cultural engagement or interaction with Tasmanian communities.

3. Timeframes

Ordinarily, applications will not be accepted after the closing date.

Generally, rounds are quarterly, opening shortly after a Screen Tasmania Expert Advisory Group meeting, and closing eight weeks later.

You will be consulted by Screen Tasmania's Development Manager during the assessment process.

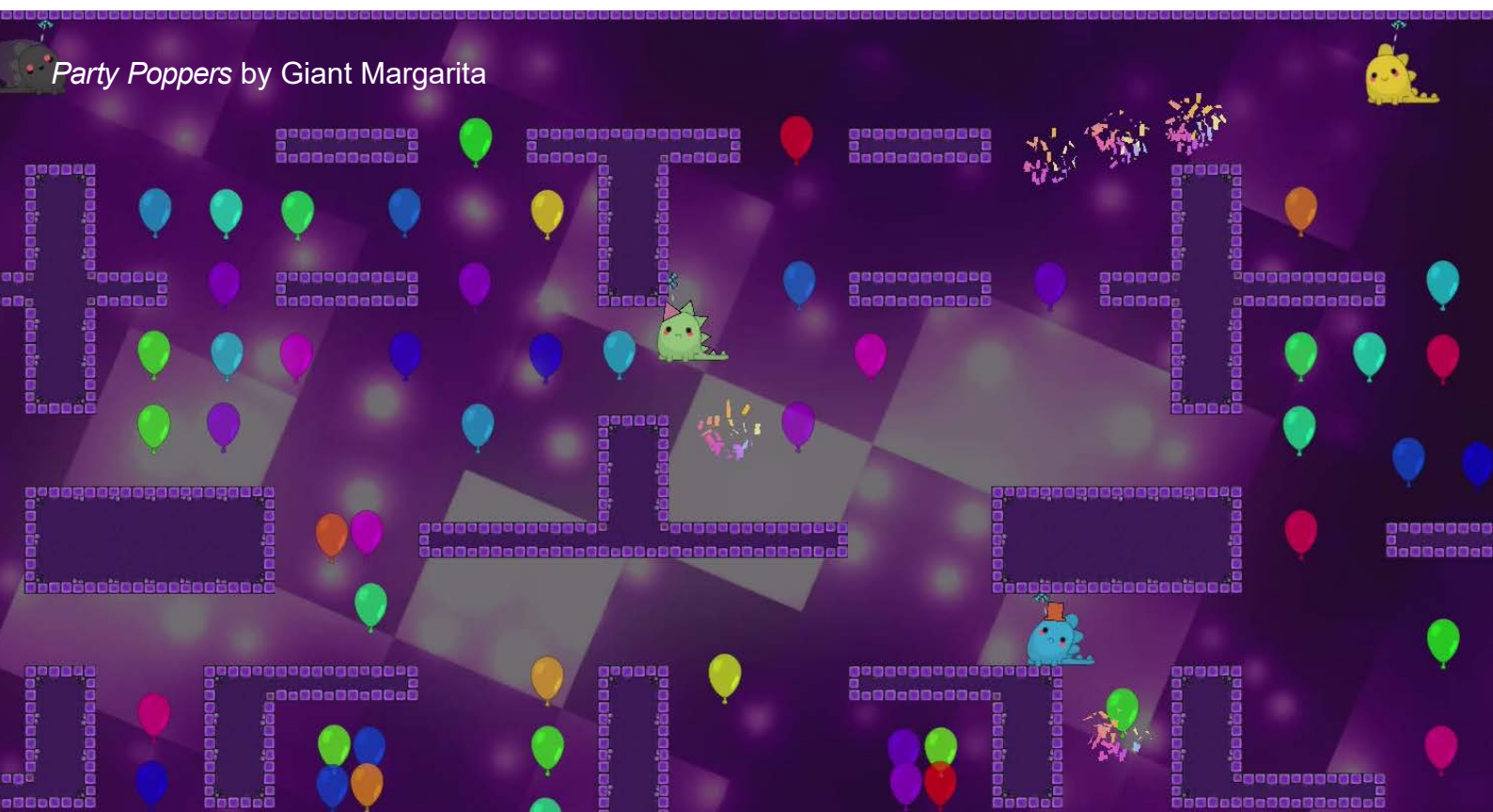
4. Application process

Screen Tasmania uses an online grants management system called SmartyGrants. This system is easy to use and accessible via mobile phones, tablets, laptops and personal computers.

Applicants without internet access should contact Screen Tasmania to discuss alternative methods.

1. Applicants should read the guidelines, The General Guidelines and Terms of Trade carefully before starting an application. The application form is designed to help structure applicants' responses to then eligibility and assessment criteria.
2. This is a competitive, merit-based process. Meeting the eligibility criteria will not automatically result in a successful application.
3. Applicants should complete and lodge an application online via SmartyGrants from the Screen Tasmania website www.screen.tas.gov.au/funding
4. Typically, Screen Tasmania will commission a report from an external, independent expert to aid the STEAG in assessing the application. Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to the report, with the response also provided to the STEAG. This process serves two purposes, it provides the decision makers with expert opinion on a project's strengths and weaknesses, and it provides applicants with a free market-focussed assessment, which will assist in developing the project

Party Poppers by Giant Margarita



further, regardless of the outcome of the application. Applicants should note that Screen Tasmania may opt not to seek such a report (often because of budgetary constraints) and should not take that as a suggestion that the application is being viewed in a positive or negative light.

5. Screen Tasmania may request additional information after an application is submitted. This information will also need to be submitted through SmartyGrants. Applicants should, however, ensure that all supporting documentation provided is accurate and is attached correctly before submitting.
6. Following the submission of the application via SmartyGrants, applicants will receive an automatic receipt of their application. This receipt will include details of the application and a unique application ID.
7. Applications will be processed by Screen Tasmania and assessed by the Screen Tasmania Expert Advisory Group (STEAG) at its next quarterly meeting.
8. The decision on whether to approve the application is made by Screen Tasmania, acting on the advice of the STEAG shortly thereafter.
9. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application once the decision has been made.
10. Unsuccessful applicants will be provided feedback on the application and will be able to meet with Screen Tasmania staff to discuss the decision.

5. Resubmitting a project

If an application is unsuccessful, the applicant is welcome to apply with the same project if it has changed significantly in a later round. However, you should note that:

- The applicant will need to demonstrate how the project has changed since it was previously unsuccessful.
- If an applicant applies twice with the same project and the application is rejected both

times, an applicant is unable to apply again with that project, unless specifically invited to by the STEAG.

- If resubmitting a project, the applicant is advised to take account of feedback received from Screen Tasmania.

6. Appealing a decision

The appeals process is designed to ensure that all applicants have been treated fairly and consistently in applying for financial support. The Department will consider appeals relating to administrative process issues in applications.

All requests must be in writing and should be addressed to the Director, Creative Tasmania. Your request must be received within 28 days from the date of the date you were notified of the decision about your application. For further information about the process, contact opscsv@building.tas.gov.au

7. Contracting and payments

Screen Tasmania will issue a Grant Deed with successful applicants. Standard terms are outlined in the Terms of Trade.

Once the Grant Deed is executed and any conditions precedent are met, the applicant should issue a Tax Invoice to Screen Tasmania in accordance with the Deed.

Funding will be provided in two tranches:

1. 80% on execution of the Grant Deed, and
2. 20% on delivery and acquittal.

7.1 Other matters

Providing incorrect bank account details may result in funds being paid to an incorrect account. These funds will need to be returned to us before we attempt another payment. This process may result in significant delays in funding being received. Additionally, we cannot guarantee that funds paid to an incorrect bank account will be returned to us.

If a recipient:

- does not complete the activities or tasks required under the funding agreement,
- does not use any or all of the funding provided,

the recipient will be required to return some or all of the funds to the department.

Similarly, if

- the information provided to us is found to be false or misleading, or
- the recipient's situation changes in a way that prevents completion of the agreed project

the recipient will be required to return some or all of the funds to the department.

8. Taxation and financial implications

Grants and Investments distributed under the program attract GST. Payments to successful applicants who are registered for GST are increased to compensate for the amount of GST payable. Where GST applies to the funding, a valid tax invoice must be supplied by the successful applicant to the department.

The receipt of funding from this program may be treated as income by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). It is strongly recommended that, prior to submitting an application, potential applicants seek independent advice from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the ATO, about

the possible tax implications for receiving the funding.

Information on invoices can be found on our Business Tasmania website www.business.tas.gov.au/running-a-business/money-tax-and-finance/invoicing

9. Acquittal

An acquittal is a statement made by a recipient, confirming that the funding was used as per the funding agreement.

In accordance with the Grant Deed, an acquittal form will be provided to recipients, asking for information about the activities and expenditure. Evidence such as, statements, reports, and deliverables are also required to support the acquittal.

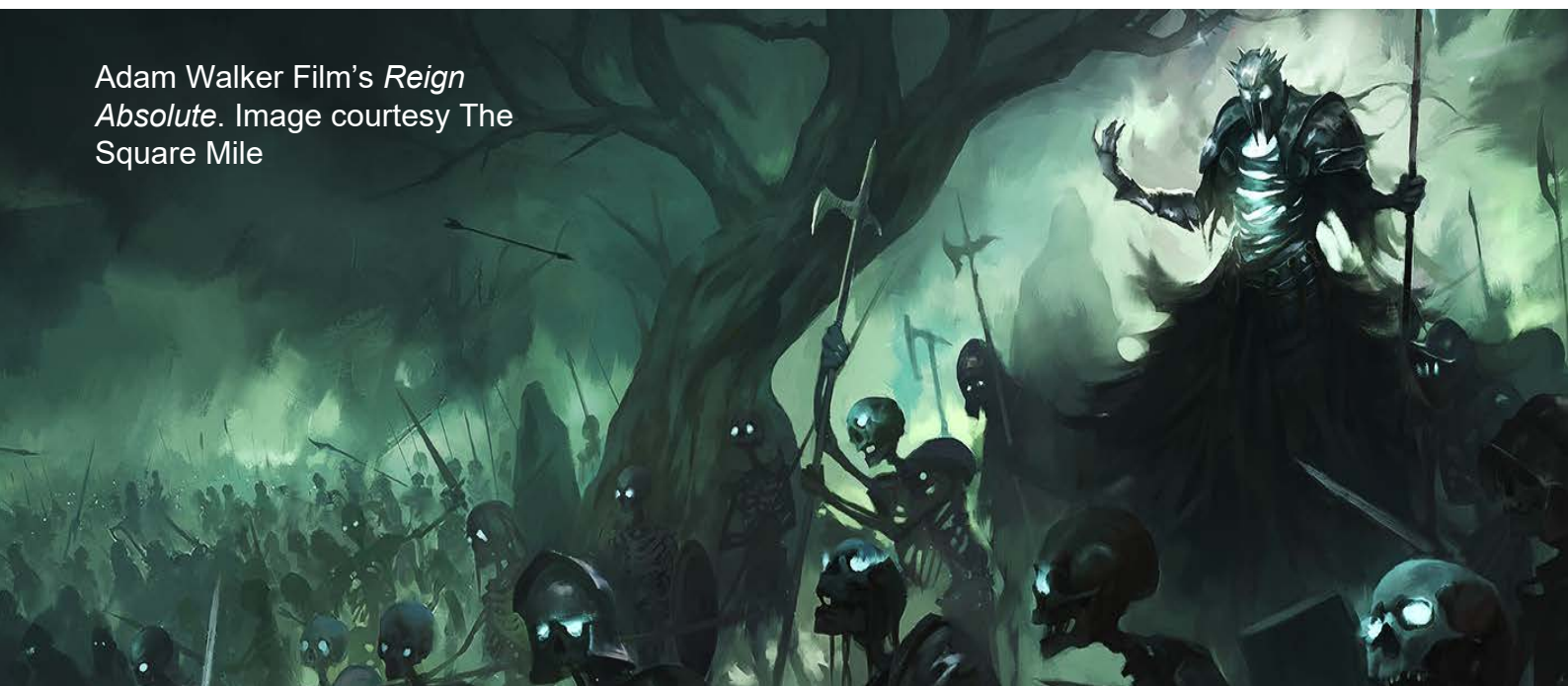
9.1 Failure to complete an acquittal

Failure to lodge a valid acquittal by the due date will result in the recipient being required to return the funding to the department. In this situation the department will invoice the recipient.

10. Administration and contact details

The program will be administered by Screen Tasmania and Building Tasmania on behalf of the Crown in the Right of Tasmania. Contact Screen Tasmania at info@screen.tas.gov.au or on 03 6165 5070.

Adam Walker Film's *Reign Absolute*. Image courtesy The Square Mile



10.1 Note

All applicants must take care to provide true and accurate information. Any information that is found to be false or misleading may result in action being taken and funds, if already provided, will be required to be repaid to the department.

11. Publicity of assistance

Screen Tasmania disburses public funds and is therefore accountable for the distribution of those funds. As part of the accountability process, the department may publicise the level of financial assistance, the identity of the recipient, the purpose of the financial assistance, and any other details considered by the department to be appropriate.

Screen Tasmania will engage with successful applicants and other relevant parties to organise an appropriate method and time for the announcement of support.

12. Right to information

Information provided to Screen Tasmania and Building Tasmania may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

13. Confidentiality

The Tasmanian Government may use and disclose the information provided by applicants for the purposes of discharging its respective functions under the Program Guidelines and otherwise for the purposes of the program and related uses.

The department may also:

1. Use information received in applications for any other departmental business.
2. Use information received in applications and during the delivery of the project for reporting purposes.
3. Use third party software to review information received in applications to confirm its authenticity.

14. Personal information protection

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. This information may be accessed by the individual to whom it related, on request to the Department. A fee for this service may be charged.

15. Disclosure

The following applies to all successful applicants:

- Despite any confidentiality or intellectual property right subsisting in the funding agreement or deed, a party may publish all or any part of the funding agreement or deed without reference to another party.
- Please note that all obligations under the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004 (Tas)* and the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cwlth)* still apply.

16. Disclaimer

Although care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty, express or implied, is given by the Crown in Right of Tasmania, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information it contains.

The Crown in Right of Tasmania accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may arise from anything contained in or omitted from or that may arise from the use of this document, and any person relying on this document and the information it contains does so at their own risk absolutely. The Crown in Right of Tasmania does not accept liability or responsibility for any loss incurred by an applicant that are in any way related to the program.



Screen Tasmania
GPO Box 536, Hobart, TAS 7001

03 6165 5070
info@screen.tas.gov.au
www.screen.tas.gov.au