

FILM PRODUCTIONS IN CONSERVATION RESERVES



2013 City of Gold Coast Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Film Productions in Conservation Reserves

November 2013

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1 INTRODUCTION

From the late 1980's, the City Of Gold Coast (city) has been recognised as a prime location to undertake film production. With an extensive range of accessible locations, experienced local crew and the world class Village Roadshow Studios, the city continues to attract a range of domestic and international film productions.

For the period 2005-2013, the direct expenditure by film productions within the city has amounted to \$529 million, this equates to an annual average of \$59 million over this timeframe. (*SGS Economics and Planning (2013), Economic Contribution of the Film Industry on the Gold Coast*).

The Film Investment Attraction Program was implemented by Council in July 2009 to assist with the attraction of film production to the city. Production companies that have been successful in receiving funding of \$245,000 through the Film Investment Attraction Program have injected approximately \$100 million into the city's economy and supported the creation of over 1,700 jobs within the city.

These figures clearly indicate that the film industry makes a significant contribution to the city's economy through job creation and a broader economic impact from expenditure on goods and services from a variety of local suppliers (building supplies, accommodation, car hire, catering and entertainment).

Since 1998, land has been purchased by the City, chiefly through the Open Space Preservation Levy and added to the City's natural areas estate as Conservation Reserves. Due to their scenic natural and aesthetic values two of these areas have previously been used by the film industry when private property.

Whilst the City acknowledges the interest of the film industry in lands that are now part of the Conservation Area network, it must be stressed that the principal function of these areas is for nature conservation. Any ancillary use such as filming needs to be undertaken in such a way as to not compromise that principal purpose.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Film Production in Conservation Reserves Guideline is to provide a clear and mutually accepted application and assessment process that assists the film industry when filming in Conservation Reserves and ensures that the conservation and biodiversity values of such areas are protected. The Guideline will:

- Provide certainty to the industry with the provision of clear assessment guidelines for all filming and associated activities within the City's Conservation Reserves.
- Protect the natural landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage values of the City's Conservation Reserves by avoiding or minimising disturbance to the fauna/flora, soils and geographical features.
- Minimise the disruption of native animals, particularly during breeding seasons or at times when animals are foraging.
- Minimise potential conflicts between other authorised users of the City's Conservation Areas and the film industry. For example through the parks booking system.
- Manage impacts of commercial filming to a sustainable and acceptable level.

The assessment process has been developed in consultation with the Film Industry and the City.

3 FILM CATEGORIES

It is anticipated that approximately 80% of applications to the City for filming in Conservation Reserves will meet the criteria for Low Level Filming. Applications for filming in reserves will fall into one of the following three (3) categories:

3.1 TABLE 1: Film Categories

<p>LOW LEVEL FILMING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short duration (up to twenty-one (21) days). • Small scale (max site coverage* (see over page) of four (4) ha in larger reserves) • Cast and crew on site at any time should not exceed seventy-five (75). Short duration visits of less than 3 hours to site by specialist staff, for example morning visits by producers, designers and art directors) are not included in this figure. • Number of commercial film vehicles on site at any time must be thirty (30) or less and the number of private cars on site at any time must be thirty (30) or less. • Minimum impact special effects are permitted. • Set construction must not exceed 3 days. • Low Level approvals do not normally require a site specific Environmental Management Plan (EMP), see <i>Section 5</i> below for details of when an EMP may be required. • Environmental location notes on the daily call sheet will be required to guide operations whilst on location and site induction of all actors, staff and crew to ensure the environmental impacts are minimised. • Application processed within two (2) business days of receipt of the application (subject to the need for site inspections to address conditions).
<p>MEDIUM LEVEL FILMING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productions of up to three (3) months duration. • Six (6) ha site coverage in reserves greater than fifty (50) ha. • Cast and crew on site must be 110 or less. Short duration visits of less than three (3) hours to site by specialist staff (for example morning visits by producers, designers and art directors) are not included in this figure. • Number of commercial film vehicles on site must be forty five (45) or less and the number of private cars on site must be forty five (45) or less. • Minimum impact special effects are permitted. • Set construction must not exceed 14 days. • Productions managed via a site specific EMP. • The EMP should be developed on site in conjunction with City Officers. The EMP will typically develop mutually agreed "location relevant and measureable" parameters (for example marked parking bays or no access zones) that satisfy the assessment criteria. • That is, the assessment guidelines are effectively the template for the EMP as they highlight the potential impacts to be mitigated. In many cases the site plan may suffice as the EMP. • The EMP must be submitted to the City with the permit application. • Application processed within five (5) business days of receipt of the application.
<p>HIGH LEVEL FILMING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale productions. • Assessed on a case by case basis. • Require detailed Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). • EMP (ISO14001 certified) that mitigates the impacts identified in the EIA.

3.2 SITE COVERAGE (Limit of Filming Area – film site)

Site coverage is defined as the area required by cast and crew to support and deliver filming.

Site Coverage includes the unit base, essential vehicles, film stage(s) and sets/props. It also includes the area required to park cast and crew vehicles, catering and other services, generators, lighting, backdrops, set builds, tents and all assets and equipment required to support and deliver filming (Figure 1 aerial photo showing an example film production).

It does not necessarily include the total area of the shot or a scene, as this could conceivably extend over tens or hundreds of hectares.

For example, a battle scene that had hundreds or thousands of troops and military assets in formation over several hectares would be included in the calculation as this is the area of use and potential impact. Conversely a lone figure standing within a vast open field, would only occupy one square metre for the purposes of the calculation of site area.

City Officers, in conjunction with the location manager are available to assist with calculating site coverage.

Figure 1 Example of site coverage, the area occupied is approximately 15,000m²



4 HOW YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE ASSESSED

Each application will be assessed against a number of criteria to determine which level the production may be captured under namely low, medium or high filming level as described in the following Assessment Level Section. Following the determination of the application in regards to the level of filming, a film production licence, subject to a range of conditions that are normally imposed in filming approvals, will be issued for applications that are considered appropriate for approval.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory criteria (site area, duration and frequency and biodiversity protection) are essential to determining the overall size and scale of a proposed film production and thus are critical to managing and mitigating potential environmental impacts. To this end there is limited opportunity to exceed these criteria without moving to a higher level of filming and assessment (however see exemptions to duration and frequency).

STANDARD CRITERIA

Standard criteria (size of cast and crew, power supply, special effects and set construction) are still important to managing and mitigating potential impacts but have some flexibility as small increases in these parameters are unlikely to lead to unacceptable impacts.

The combination of Mandatory and Standard criteria are the key components of an Environmental Management Plan as they consider all likely impacts filming may have on conservation values in natural areas. The assessment process is scalable so as to provide a flexible methodology tailored to the various levels of size and complexity inherent in film productions.

An application will move to the next assessment level when:

- It fails to meet any of the Mandatory criteria; or
- It fails three (3) out of four (4) Standard criteria; or
- It exceeds the relevant measure of any Standard criteria by more than 50%.

In cases where two (2) standard criteria are not met (and are not exceeded by 50%), a site specific EMP must be produced which addresses those criteria. This can be developed subject to an on site meeting with City Officers. If only one standard criterion is not met (and is not exceeded by 50%), it must be addressed in environmental location notes on the daily call sheet.

City Officers are available to assist with formulating actions for mitigating site specific management issues that can be included in the production's daily call sheet.

For Medium Level filming the site specific EMP must address the Standard criteria which have been exceeded (and are not exceeded by 50% to remain at Medium Level).

PLEASE NOTE:

- Medium Level Filming and High Level Filming will not be considered at Pimpama River Conservation Area and Springbrook Conservation Reserves, that is, only Low Level Filming is permitted.
- This is due to these conservation areas having significant and sensitive biodiversity values and filming is likely to have negative impacts on these values. For example, Springbrook Conservation Area shares the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage values of neighbouring Springbrook National Park and Pimpama is one of the last remaining mainland coastal reserves in the City, providing habitat for 4 species of macropod, two of which have special conservation significance (Agile Wallaby and Golden Swamp Wallaby).
- The sites are also important receiving sites for biodiversity and carbon offsets (typically tree plantings or assisted ecological restoration). In this regard the City has signed commercial contracts with external agencies to deliver offsets at Pimpama and

Springbrook and filming may prevent the City from delivering these contracts on time and within budget.

- High Level Filming will not be considered in the Coombabah Conservation Reserves due to the reserve being a very popular general public user area.

5 LOW LEVEL FILMING

Except for Rosegum and Araluen Rd Sections of Bally Mountain Conservation Reserves**, small scale film production is permitted in all natural areas where the assessment criteria for Low Level filming is met as described below.

These criteria are used to define small scale and short duration productions and are designed to provide the industry with certainty on when and where filming of this nature can proceed.

Low Level approvals do not normally require a site specific EMP (see below for details of when an EMP may be required), environmental location notes on the daily call sheet will be required to guide operations whilst on location and site induction of all actors, staff and crew to ensure the environmental impacts are minimised.

The environmental location notes on the daily call sheet **must accompany** the **application** to the City. City Officers are available to assist location managers with formulating actions for mitigating site specific management issues that can be included in the production's daily call sheet.

If an application is deemed to be Medium Level Filming, it will not be eligible for Springbrook Conservation Reserves or Pimpama River Conservation Area.

Bonds are mandatory and a minimum bond of \$10,000 is required for all Low Level Filming approvals.

Low Level Filming applications will be assessed within two (2) business days of receipt of the completed application.

5.1 MANDATORY CRITERIA

If an application fails to meet any of the following Mandatory criteria it will automatically move to the next level of assessment, that is, Medium Level Filming.

i Limit of Filming Area (film site)

- Must not exceed 10 per cent of the conservation reserve where the reserve is less than or equal to twenty (20) hectares in size.
- Must not exceed three (3) hectares where the reserve is greater than 20ha in size.

ii Duration and Frequency of Filming

- Time on site must not exceed twenty-one (21) days. This is the total period of occupation from the time the first support vehicles arrive to prepare the site until the last support vehicles leave and includes the time that the set may be empty or when film production is halted (refer to exemptions below that 'stop the clock').

The twenty-one (21) day period does not include delays due to unforeseen impacts such as wet weather, equipment failure or illness of key staff/actors etc. That is, extensions can be granted to provide for unforeseen delays.

- The twenty-one (21) day period may be made up of multiple shoots from different production companies, however the twenty-one (21) day period commences at the time of first use by the first production house.

*** The Commonwealth will not permit Low, Medium or High Level filming in these reserves. The Federal Government contributed two-thirds of the purchase price of these properties and required the City to enter into a legally binding funding deed that determined the overall management intent (permitted uses etc) of the property.*

- To remain at the current level of assessment there must be no filming in rest periods as described in the text box below, regardless of whether it is the same or a different production company.

Rest Periods:

- Following the completion of a Low Level production in the conservation reserve there must be a two (2) month 'rest' period before a Low Level Film production may commence; and
- Following the completion of a Medium Level or High Level Film approval in the conservation reserve there must be a twelve (12) month rest period before a Low Level production can commence.

Extensions may be granted to allow sets and props to stay on site beyond the twenty-one (21) day period (for example, to shoot a short, final or make-up scene) if this is deemed to have little or no impact on conservation values and reserve operations and actually reduces comings and goings from site.

If there is less than ten (10) days of Low Level Film production in the conservation reserve, the two (2) month rest period is not required. However, this exemption cannot be used to work around the 21 day filming limit and 2 month rest period. For example 10 days of filming separated by two days of no filming followed by another 10 days of filming and so on, so as to effectively lead to continuous film production over a number of months.

- Filming and any other activity (except for security patrols) must not occur continuously for more than forty-eight (48) hours in any three (3) day period.
- Filming may only occur at one location at any given time within a reserve. Location is defined as 'one unit base and multiple film stages (that is provided Mandatory area limits are not exceeded additional scenes can be shot in close proximity to the principal location)'.
This is to ensure unit bases are well separated to minimise impacts in one location.
- Where multiple film productions (being either the same or a different production house) are located in close proximity, they must be separated by at least two (2) kilometres. This is to ensure unit bases are well separated to minimise impacts in one location.

iii Biodiversity Protection

- Native Vegetation located outside or within the filming area must not be removed, damaged or impacted on in anyway.
- Filming and associated activities must not cause a significant disturbance to native animals outside of the designated filming area.
- Filming must not adversely impact the foraging and breeding behaviour of animals. Filming may need to be scheduled to avoid breeding seasons for rare and threatened species and significant fauna. City Officers will advise applicants at time of application should the proposed filming coincide with these conditions.
- Filming is not permitted in any exclusion zone specified in an Adopted Conservation Reserve Management Plan.

5.2 STANDARD CRITERIA

If an application fails three (3) out of four (4) Standard criteria it will automatically move to the next level of assessment, that is, Medium Level Filming.

In addition, if any Standard criteria are exceeded by more than 50% of the relevant measure, the application will be deemed to be a Medium Level Filming application and thus will not be eligible for Springbrook Conservation Reserves or Pimpama River Conservation Area.

An application will remain at the current assessment level while not meeting up to two (2) Standard criteria (so long as they are not exceeded by 50%). In cases where two (2) Standard criteria are not met a site specific EMP must be produced which addresses those conditions.

If only one (1) Standard criteria is not met (and is not exceed by 50% of the relevant measure) it must be addressed via the environmental location notes on the daily call sheet.

i Maximum Size of Cast, Crew and Vehicles Permitted on Site

- No vehicles are to be parked under the drip lines of trees.
- Cast and crew on site at any time should not exceed seventy-five (75). Short duration visits of less than 3 hours to site by specialist staff, for example, morning visits by producers, designers and art directors are not included in this figure.
- Number of commercial film vehicles on site at any time must be thirty (30) or less.
- Number of private cars on site at any time must be thirty (30) or less.

ii Special Effects (SFX) for example explosions, smoke, gunfire scenes

- Smoke is permitted subject to relevant Local Laws and State pollution legislation.
- Only one of the following four classes of minimum impact special effects can occur in any 48 hour period and their duration and quantity should not exceed the parameters below:
 - 2 aircraft take offs and landings.
 - 2 minutes of fly over's or hovering.
 - 5 minutes of gun or cannon fire or car/bike chases or crashes (number of guns and/or cannons must not exceed 10 and number of cars/bikes must not exceed 5).
 - 60 seconds of explosions (number of separate charges must not exceed 20 and each charge must not exceed the equivalent of 20 grams of flash powder).
- Total number of days with special effects should not exceed three (3) in the twenty-one (21) day period.
- High wire work akin to acrobatics and other stunt scenes are not subject to these limits but are subject to all other conditions in these guidelines, for example, cranes required to suspend stunt doubles will be included in the vehicle limits, cast & crew size, biodiversity conditions etc.
- Other types of special effect are deemed to be non-preferred and may cause the application to proceed to the next level of assessment.

iii Set Construction

- Sets are not to be located under the drip lines of trees.
- Set construction must not exceed 3 days but does not have to be completed on consecutive days. It is preferred that pre-fabricated sets are transported to site and then assembled.

iv Potential Pest Animals and Plants

- Up to two (2) domestic animals (but not invertebrates) may be brought onto the site at any one time, these animals must always be under the control of their trainer and/or handler.
- Except for up to two (2) domestic animals, no other animals, including invertebrates whether native, domestic, introduced or exotic (except Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs or similar) are to be brought onto site.
- No plants are to be introduced or brought onto the site

5.3 ADVISORY'S

The following are not included in the assessment criteria and will be conditioned on each film production licence:

Day to day operations:

- Film production must not prevent City Officers or contractors from undertaking essential management activities within the conservation reserve, for example maintenance of Green Fleet and other contracted carbon or biodiversity offset plantings, ecological restoration, pest plant and animal control or bushfire management.
- Film production must not prevent walkers from using the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk (only applicable to Springbrook Conservation Reserves).
- Film production must ensure that access into reserves is safe for City Officers and contractors and members of the public, traffic control may be required to manage access to reserves particularly along dirt roads or management trails.
- Parks Gold Coast booking system will be used to avoid potential conflict between users and to give the film industry guaranteed access to its chosen locations.

Site Supervision:

- The location manager must ensure that the environmental and conservation protection actions contained in the environmental location notes on the daily call sheet or Site Specific Environmental Management Plan are implemented for the duration of the shoot.

Power Supply:

- No generators or fuel are to be located and/or stored under the drip lines of trees.
- Generators must be silenced to achieve a noise level <70dB(a) measured at three (3) m.
- Fuel must be stored greater than thirty (30) m away from any waterway or water body.

6 MEDIUM LEVEL FILMING

These productions will be managed via a site specific EMP. The EMP should be discussed and formulated on site with City Officers. It will typically develop mutually agreed “location relevant and measureable” parameters (for example, marked parking bays or no access zones) to deliver compliance with the Mandatory and Standard assessment criteria. That is, these assessment guidelines are effectively the template for the EMP as they highlight the potential impacts to be mitigated.

In many cases the site plan may suffice as the EMP. The EMP **must be submitted** to the City with the **licence application** and City Officers will assess the EMP to ensure that it mitigates potential environmental impacts.

Except for Springbrook Conservation Reserves, Pimpama River Conservation Area and Rosegum and Araluen Rd Sections of Bally Mountain Conservation Reserves larger productions of up to three months duration and six (6) hectares site coverage in reserves greater than fifty (50) ha in size are permitted in all natural area reserves where the assessment criteria for Medium Level Filming is met.

Bonds are mandatory and a minimum bond of \$20,000 (or another amount specified by the City) is required for all Medium Level Filming approvals.

Medium Level Filming applications will be assessed within five (5) business days of receipt of the completed application.

6.1 MANDATORY CRITERIA

If an application fails to meet any of the following Mandatory criteria it will move to the next level of assessment, that is, High Level Filming.

i Limit of Filming Area (film site)

- Must not exceed ten (10) per cent of the conservation reserve where the reserve is less than twenty (20) hectares in size.
- Must not exceed four (4) hectares where the reserve is between twenty-one (21) and fifty (50) ha in size.
- Must not exceed six (6) hectares where the reserve is greater than fifty (50) ha in size.

ii Duration and Frequency

- Time on site must not exceed three (3) calendar months. This is the total period of occupation from the time the first support vehicles arrive to prepare the site until the last support vehicles leave after making the site good. This includes the time that the set may be empty or when film production is halted (refer to exemptions below that ‘stop the clock’).

The 3 month period does not include delays due to unforeseen impacts such as wet weather, equipment failure or illness of key staff/actors etc. That is, extensions can be granted to provide for unforeseen delays.

- The three (3) month period may be made up of multiple shoots from different production companies, however the three (3) month period commences at the time of first use by the first production house.
- To remain at the current level of assessment there must be no filming in rest periods as described in the text box below, regardless of whether it is the same or a different production company.

Rest Periods:

- Following the completion of a Low Level production in the conservation reserve there must be a three (3) month 'rest' period before a Medium Level Film production may commence; and;
- Following the completion of a Medium Level or High Level Film approval in the conservation reserve there must be a twelve (12) month rest period before a Medium Level production can commence.

If a Medium Level production is proposed within a rest period, this should be discussed on a case by case basis with City Officers, as it is likely that the City will accept a "reduced High Level Film Assessment". For example the Environmental Impact Assessment may only need to focus on the potential impact of longer term or effectively continuous film production in the one location.

Extensions may be granted to allow sets and props to stay on site beyond the 3 month period (for example, to shoot a short, final or make-up scene after the initial scene) if this is deemed to have little or no impact on conservation values and park operations and actually reduces comings and goings from site.

- Filming and any other movement or noise related activity on site, except for security patrols, must not occur continuously on location for more than seventy-two (72) hours in any four (4) day period.
- Filming may only occur at one location at any given time within a reserve. Location is defined as 'one unit base and multiple film stages (that is provided Mandatory area limits are not exceeded additional scenes can be shot in close proximity to the principal location)'.
- Where multiple film productions (being either the same or a different production house) are located in close proximity they must be separated by at least one (1) kilometre. This is to ensure unit bases are well separated to minimise impacts in one location.

iii Biodiversity Protection

- Protected vegetation must not be removed, damaged or impacted in anyway (protected vegetation is as defined under the Gold Coast City Planning Scheme, *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, *Fisheries Act 1994*, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Commonwealth*).
- Filming and associated activities must not cause a significant disturbance to native animals outside of the designated filming area.
- Filming must not adversely impact the foraging and breeding behaviour of animals. Filming may need to be scheduled to avoid breeding seasons for rare and threatened species and significant fauna. City Officers will advise applicants at time of application should the proposed filming coincide with these conditions.
- Filming is not permitted in an exclusion zone as described by an Adopted Conservation Reserve Management Plan.

6.2 STANDARD CRITERIA

If an application fails three (3) out of four (4) Standard criteria (size of cast and crew, special effects or set construction) it will automatically move to the next level of assessment, that is, High Level Filming.

In addition, if any Standard criteria are exceeded by more than 50% of the relevant measure, the application will be deemed to be a High Level Filming application and thus will not be eligible for Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area.

An application will remain at the current assessment level while not meeting up to two (2) Standard criteria (so long as they are not exceeded by 50%). In cases where two (2) Standard criteria are not met a site specific EMP must be produced which addresses those criteria.

If only one (1) Standard criterion is not met (and is not exceed by 50% of the relevant measure) it must be addressed via the environmental location notes on the daily call sheet.

i Maximum Size of Cast, Crew and Vehicles Permitted on Site

- No vehicles are to be parked under the drip lines of trees.
- Cast and crew on site must be 110 or less. Short duration visits of less than 3 hours to site by specialist staff (for example morning visits by producers, designers and art directors) are not included in this figure.
- Number of commercial film vehicles on site must be forty five (45) or less.
- Number of private cars on site must be forty five (45) or less.

ii Special Effects (SFX) for example explosions, smoke, gunfire scenes

- Smoke is permitted subject to relevant Local Laws and State pollution legislation.
- Only one of the following four classes of low impact special effects can occur in any twenty-four (24) hour period and their duration and quantity should not exceed the parameters below:
 - 4 aircraft take offs and landings.
 - 5 minutes of fly over's or hovering.
 - 10 minutes of gun or cannon fire or car/bike chases or crashes (number of guns and/or cannons must not exceed 20 and number of cars/bikes must not exceed 5).
 - 120 seconds of explosions (number of separate charges must not exceed 30 and each charge must not exceed the equivalent of 35 grams of flash powder).
- Total number of days with special effects should not exceed ten (10) in the three (3) month period.
- High wire work akin to acrobatics and other stunt scenes are not subject to these limits but are subject to all other conditions in these guidelines, for example, cranes required to suspend stunt doubles will be included in the vehicle limits, cast and crew size, biodiversity conditions etc.
- Other types of special effect are deemed to be non-preferred and may cause the application to proceed to the next level of assessment.

iii Set Construction

- Sets are not to be located under the drip lines of trees.
- Set construction must not exceed fourteen (14) days but does not have to be completed on consecutive days.
- Set construction must comply with all conditions contained in the medium level filming assessment criteria.

iv Potential Pest Animals and Plants

- Up to five (5) domestic animals (but not invertebrates) may be brought onto the site at any one time, these animals must always be under the control of their trainer and/or handler.
- Except for up to five (5) domestic animals, no other animals, including invertebrates whether native, domestic, introduced or exotic (except Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs or similar) are to be brought onto site.
- No plants are to be introduced or brought onto the site

6.3 ADVISORY'S

The following are not included in the assessment criteria and will be conditioned on each film production licence:

Day to day operations:

- Film production must not prevent City Officers or contractors from undertaking essential management activities within the conservation reserve, for example maintenance of Green Fleet and other contracted carbon or biodiversity offset plantings, ecological restoration, pest plant and animal control or bushfire management.
- Film production must ensure that access into reserves is safe for City Officers, contractors and members of the public. Traffic control may be required to manage access to reserves particularly along dirt roads or management trails.
- Parks Gold Coast booking system will be used to avoid potential conflict between users and to give the film industry guaranteed access to its chosen locations.

Site supervision:

- The production may be required to engage an Environmental Supervisor (ES) to oversee the implementation of the EMP and on-site monitoring, to ensure compliance with EMP conditions.

Power Supply:

- No generators or fuel are to be located and/or stored under the drip lines of trees.
- Generators must be silenced so as to achieve a noise level less than 70dB(a) measured at three (3) m.
- Fuel must be stored greater than thirty (30) m away from any waterway or water body.

7 HIGH LEVEL FILMING

Large scale productions greater than described in Medium Level Filming will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Such applications will require detailed EIA and an accompanying EMP that mitigates the impacts identified in the EIA. The EMP must be ISO14001 certified and be produced by an appropriately qualified and experienced ecological consultant.

On receipt of the completed application and associated reports the City will either issue an approval, propose a modified or lesser level of film production, or refuse the film application.

Large scale, High Level Filming applications will not be considered in the following conservation reserves:

- Pimpama River Conservation Area (Medium Level Filming also prohibited).
- Springbrook Conservation Reserves (Medium Level Filming also prohibited).
- Rosegum and Araluen Rd Sections of Bally Mountain Conservation Reserves (Low and Medium Level Filming also prohibited).
- Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area.

This is due to these conservation areas having significant and sensitive biodiversity values and filming is likely to have negative impacts on these values. For example, Springbrook Conservation Area shares the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage values of neighbouring Springbrook National Park and Pimpama is one of the last remaining mainland coastal reserves in the City, providing habitat for 4 species of macropod, including the Agile Wallaby and Golden Swamp Wallaby. High level filming has the strong potential to disrupt the species breeding cycles or displace them from the site with limited alternate sites to disperse to.

Pimpama and Springbrook are also important receiving sites for biodiversity and carbon offsets (typically tree plantings or assisted ecological restoration). In this regard the City has signed commercial contracts with external agencies to deliver offsets at these sites and filming may prevent the City from delivering these contracts on time and within budget.

High Level Filming will not be considered in the Coombabah Conservation Reserves due to the reserve being a very popular general public user area as well as its highly significant coastal ecosystems and Koala population. High level filming has the strong potential to disrupt the Koalas breeding cycles as well as potentially impacting on international treaty (RAMSAR) listed bird species

The Commonwealth has advised that they will not permit Low, Medium or High Level filming in Rosegum and Araluen Rd sections of Bally Mountain Conservation Reserves. The Federal Government contributed two-thirds of the purchase price of these properties and required the City to enter into a legally binding funding deed that determined the overall management intent (permitted uses etc) of the property.

Large scale, High Level Filming applications will be considered in the City's remaining conservation reserves where it can be demonstrated that film production is sustainable and will not cause an adverse environmental impact.

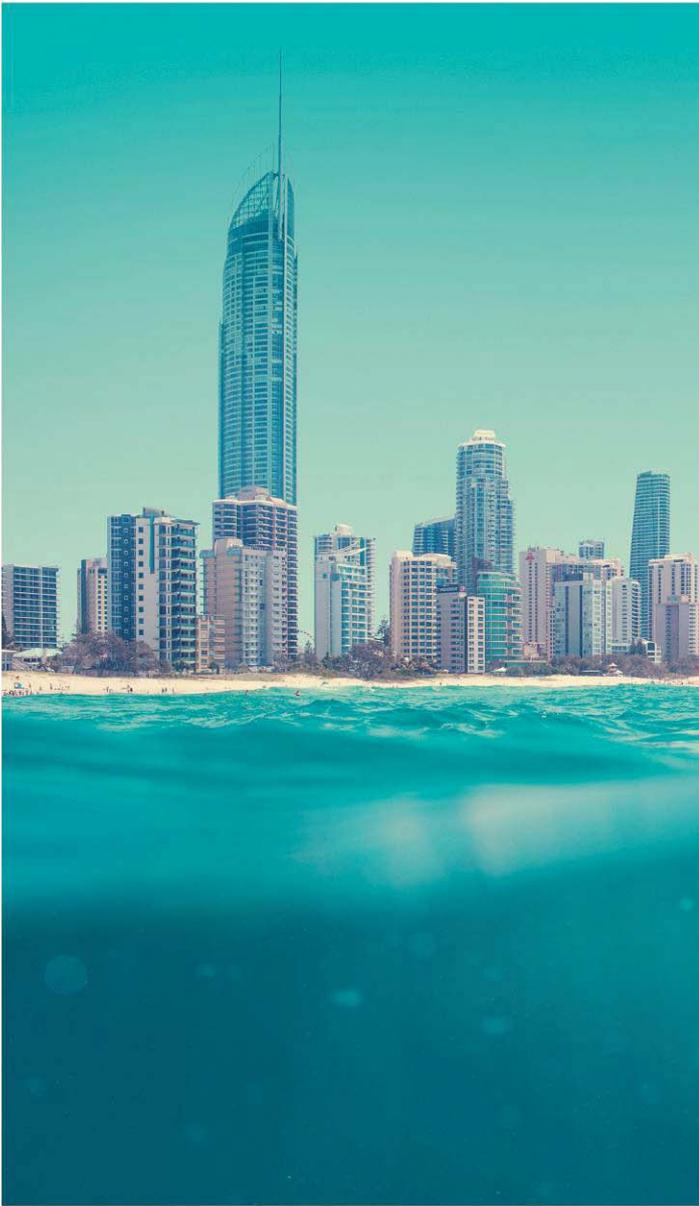
The City will work with the film industry to support filming in the City's natural area estate, however it must be noted that the City may refuse such applications if the environmental and biodiversity impacts are deemed to be unsustainable, or negatively impact upon the values of the conservation estate.

Bonds (determined at time of application based on the intensity and scale of the production).

Acknowledgements:

Rocky Bester, Director – Production and Investment, Screen Queensland.

Filming Location Managers – Mike McLean, Gareth Price and Scott Stewart.



Council of the City of Gold Coast

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