

8 June 2021

Len Whalley  
Newport Railway Workshops Preservation Group

### **Re: Future of Newport Railyards and Steamrail Workshops**

Film Victoria is the State Government agency that provides strategic leadership and assistance to Victoria's screen industry. We work to develop and strengthen the Victorian screen industry through the funding and attraction of film, television and digital games projects.

In 2018/19 financial year Victoria's screen industry delivered \$2.2 billion and 17,000 full-time equivalent jobs to the state's economy, and in 2021 Victoria is expected to experience a new record level of production. This growth will inject significant economic and employment benefits into the Victorian economy which has been hard hit by the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Newport Railyards and the Steamrail Workshops are a unique and valuable asset for film and television productions because they provide a range of diverse filming looks within one contained location. The site has been an integral part of screen production in Victoria for many years with its period facades, railway platform, rolling stock and private, controllable areas appealing to international and domestic productions alike.

Several large-scale international productions have utilised the location for filming including *Ghost Rider and Knowing both starring Nicolas Cage, The Leftovers, The Whistleblower, Winchester and Preacher*, whilst domestic productions include *Rush, Miss Fisher & The Crypt of Tears, Jack Irish* as well as many television commercials.

The site has many key attractions that are valuable for location filming, these include:

- / Yards
- / Clock tower and office site
- / Victrack warehouses and tunnel section
- / Steamrail workshops
- / Rolling stock and garden platform
- / Open space to accommodate large scale filming infrastructure, including trucks, marquees, heavy machinery and set builds

Inner city proximity that offers the ability to film day or night without disrupting residents and traders due to its isolated location. This is particularly enticing to productions who have budget and time restraints.

Film Victoria recently surveyed location managers across the Victorian screen industry and discovered these locations are accessed over twenty times per year by film, television and TVC productions.

Film Victoria has valued and is grateful for the ongoing partnership with VicTrack and Steamrail which has enabled the agency to attract major screen projects to the state. This 'Team Melbourne' approach supported by the Film Friendly Principals of the *Filming Approval Act 2014* has enabled Victoria to attract world class screen projects to the state, showcasing Victoria to millions of people around the world and delivering benefits to Victoria's visitor economy.

Film Victoria supports opportunities for screen production at Newport Railyards and the Steamrail Workshops and hopes that these spaces continue to remain accessible for filming activities.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me on 0479 183 740.

Regards,

*Joe Brinkmann*

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