

on a 45% capital write-off of the entire moneys expended in relation to the film whether direct or not and may include, expenditure on prints, marketing and advertising. New Zealand has previously provided a limited amount of money to Australian projects on the basis of expenditure upon items not attractive to investors in Australia.

4. United Kingdom

Although the Eady Scheme is no longer available in the United Kingdom, the "Business Expansion Scheme" has been retained such that an investment of up to £40,000 per tax payer per year may be tax deductible.

5. Other Territories

Various other countries have capacity for direct investment in film projects or can provide other indirect assistance for film projects on the basis that they are to be made, produced or in part involve sub-territories which offer such incentives.

Exchange rate, or currency deals may be available in certain territories where the value of the currency in the territory which undertakes the filming or the part production of the film is such that it is advantageous to bring foreign currency into the territory. Currency deals, combined with direct subsidy and tax incentives, enable the promoter to package the projects rarely without direct government intervention.

Conclusion

Although no films have yet been financed or even packaged under the AFC's co-production policy hopefully eligibility of tax deductions under Division 10BA in relation to co-productions will become available as both producers and administrators become more familiar with international financing, production, and administrative requirements in relation to co-production film making.

Michael Frankel

NEWS

GOVERNMENT ABORIGINAL BROADCASTING COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

In late November the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Clyde Holding, and the Minister for Communications, Mr Michael Duffy, gave details of the Government's decisions on the recommendations contained in "Out of the Silent Land", the report prepared by the task force on Aboriginal and Islander broadcasting and communications.

The major points contained in those decisions were:

- a study into the feasibility of providing satellite reception facilities to Aboriginal communities would be made;
- appropriate measures for Aborigines to manage the programming of broadcasts to their communities would be developed;
- there would be encouragement of Aboriginal production of radio and television programs; and
- the accelerated expansion of telephone services.

The Ministers noted that the Government:

- (i) was looking to the ABC to increase its involvement with Aboriginal broadcasting;
- (ii) had endorsed the development of independent Aboriginal broadcasting associations at Alice Springs, Darwin, Townsville, Thursday Island and in the Kimberleys.

The Government also noted that:

- (i) the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association in Alice Springs had been granted funds to enable it to develop its Aboriginal video television capacity; and
- (ii) high frequency inland radio services would begin in the Northern

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Territory soon, using transmitters in Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek and that the Government would conduct a study as to whether such services should be extended to Cape York, the Kimberleys and the Pilbara.

(Cont'd from p9)

purpose of criticism and review is concerned.

The Media Release also stated the Government's intention to further consider options for home taping (and educational use of audiovisual materials) and to examine the potential for a rental right for copy-right owners of records and videos.

Catriona Hughes

NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Government has formed the NBSDC to advise it on the ABC and SBS radio and television expansion. The establishment of the Council means the abolition of the National Broadcasting Service Planning Committee and the Special Broadcasting Service Planning Committee.

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AUSSAT

TECHNICAL DIGEST

In the context of AUSSAT and the domestic satellite and Remote Commercial Television Services (RCTS) technology is becoming important. The Bulletin will attempt to explain some of the terms used to enable readers to better understand these communications issues.

The first term is "B-MAC", the technical system to be used for the ABC's remote area service (HACBSS), and, thus, also for RCTS licensees.

It is said that the B-MAC (Multiplexed Analogue Component, Type B) transmission system chosen for Australia's Homestead and Community Broadcasting Satellite Service (HACBSS), has several significant advantages: high quality television reception, six digital sound channels, a data channel and more reliable reception, even under extreme climatic conditions. The system also has the capacity to keep pace with future technological developments which will improve the quality of television (e.g. extended definition television).

The system is capable of carrying stereo and mono sound broadcasts plus television with stereo sound, teletext, and a data channel which could provide emergency warnings, special educational programs and other services.

B-MAC signals transmitted via satellite at a frequency of 12 GHz are received by a dish-shaped antenna and Outdoor Unit (ODU). The ODU converts these signals to a lower frequency for transmission through an interconnecting cable (about 30m long) to the Indoor Unit (IDU). The IDU provides a means of tuning to different satellite transponders, or channels, and with the aid of a baseband processor located within the IDU, separates the picture, sound channels, data and teletext for connection to domestic receiving units.

The television picture or pages of teletext are accessible through either a traditional television (PAL) receiver or RGB (Red/Green/Blue) video monitor. Radio programs or sound to match the television picture are accessible through a stereo amplifier. A traditional radio receiver is not required.