Dear Senator INSERT NAME,

 I am writing to express my concerns about proposed changes to the Australian Screen Production Incentives. Changes to these Incentives within the ***Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 5) Bill 2021,***which is currently before the Senate, has the potential to devastate the Australian documentary sector – and make it much harder for Australian filmmakers to tell Australian stories.

As a filmmaker/lover of Australian film – INSERT PERSONAL ANECDOTE HERE

 I am deeply concerned about the impacts the ***Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 5) Bill 2021*** will have on the documentary sector if the proposed reforms to the Australian Screen Production Incentives go ahead without amendment. The main impact will be on one-off, single documentary feature films. These films tell the story of our nation – often on small budgets and over many years. They are also where so much of Australia’s talented filmmakers emerge. They are distinct from nearly every other category of film content and need to be treated as such, to ensure these stories can continue to be told and seen by Australian audiences.

My key ask is that the current supports for Australian documentaries remain through:

* Retaining the QAPE threshold at $500,000 for feature documentary to qualify for the Producer Offset.
* Retaining the Gallipoli Clause, which allows some oversea costs (such as Australian crew wages) incurred outside of Australia to be claimed as QAPE for feature documentaries.
* Retaining the ability to claim all expenditure in relation to a film incurred in acquiring Australian copyright or licensing Australian copyright in a pre-existing work for use in the film can be counted as QAPE for feature documentary.
* Retaining the ability to count expenditure on general business overheads, to a cap, towards QAPE for feature documentaries.
* Retaining the ability for all ‘above the line’ to be counted towards QAPE for documentary.

The sector is not asking for anything extra – rather that the status quo is maintained so that Australian documentaries can continue to be made and capture the unique stories of our nation.

You have the power to ensure this legislation does not pass in its current form. I hope you will support Australian documentary and look to ensure this legislation is amended to protect the future of Australian storytelling.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours faithfully,