

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE COUNCIL
PO Box 194, Maryborough
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CENTRAL
GOLDFIELDS
SHIRE
COUNCIL

Film Policy and General Conditions for Filming in the Shire



Central Goldfields Shire Council, Film Policy

Located at the geographical centre of Victoria, Central Goldfields Shire covers 1,550 square kilometres and has an estimated residential population of just over 13,000 people.

Maryborough is the shire's major business centre with a population of around 8000. Maryborough has gained recognition in recent years as having some of the finest sporting facilities in regional Victoria, together with significant historical buildings dating back the goldmining era of the 1850s.

Other towns in the shire include Bealiba, Carisbrook, Dunolly, Majorca, Talbot, Bowenvale-Timor and the rural districts surrounding these centres. All are famous for their heritage architecture and significant agricultural industries.

The shire is located within an hour's drive from main provincial centres of Ballarat and Bendigo and only two hours from Melbourne.

BACKGROUND

There is recognition that a Film Policy be developed in response to interest from film producers for film locations within the Shire. The Policy's objective is to provide assistance to the film industry, provide a co-ordinated service to applicants and to balance and maintain residential amenity.

The Central Goldfields Shire Council issues permits, co-ordinates location bookings, maintains an overview of filming activity in the municipality and provides an information service.

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Growth and Liveability Department is a central contact point for film crews and liaises internally to ensure optimum traffic management, use of public and commercial spaces and Council facilities.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This document provides scope and guidance for the attraction of film, television and new media production to the Central Goldfields Shire. The policy details the levels of assistance and service to be provided by Council and outlines the expectations of Council in regard to the obligations and requirements that will be placed upon inbound production companies.

The policy is specifically related but not limited, to:

- motion picture photography for television;
- feature films;
- advertisements;
- student film projects;
- documentaries;
- music videos; and
- commercial stills photography.

VISION

To be considered the best film location in rural Victoria, providing the best service which promotes the Central Goldfields Shire locations to the film industry and visitors.

MISSION

Council will offer a coordinated approach aimed at facilitating and encouraging film and television production in the Central Goldfields Shire. This service will provide one point of contact and will assist in achieving the aspirations of every project

OBJECTIVES

The Film Policy's objectives are:

- To encourage film and television producers to consider Central Goldfields Shire Council as a desirable location;
- Fostering an environment where arts, recreation, culture and knowledge are valued;

Central Goldfields Shire Council, Film Policy

- Increase the number of film and television production companies utilising the Central Goldfields Shire as a preferred location;
- To promote, facilitate and assist the work of the film and television industry within the Central Goldfields Shire Council;
- To promote the Central Goldfields Shire Council as a film-friendly and high quality filming location in Victoria;
- To actively work with other key government agencies, in particular Film Victoria and the Melbourne Film Office, and industry bodies to effectively promote the Central Goldfields Shire Council as a film-friendly destination with diverse and accessible locations;
- To promote the geographical accessibility and the environmental and heritage assets of the Central Goldfields Shire Council to the film and television industry;
- To respond to all enquiries relating to film and television production in an efficient and effective manner;
- To recognise the cultural, tourism and economic benefits and value derived from filming activity;
- To provide an indirect economic benefit by generating employment and sales;
- To provide a central contact person for the film industry with advice on the guidelines and procedures and evaluates and processes film location permit applications. The service encourages location managers and film producers to provide on-going information about filming activities and to budget adequately for film location fees;
- To contribute to the film industry's development; and
- To balance the amenity of residents and traders with those of the industry and promotes the Central Goldfields Shire Council.

FILM LIAISON SERVICES

The Film Liaison Unit will:

- Provide a central contact person for all council related issues
- Assist with Council permit application processes where necessary and liaise with relevant departments to fast track permit applications where possible
- Assist in sourcing locations to match script specifications
- Provide contact information for, but not limited to:
 - Council Services and Statutory Requirements
 - Police
 - Ambulance
 - Fire
 - Road Closures
 - Traffic Management
 - Signage
 - Waste Management
 - Applicable Support Services
 - Local community groups and organisations
 - Internal Council departments e.g. planning, heritage, local laws
- Ensure that effective road closure processes are facilitated and traffic management plans are submitted by the Production Company where major public disturbance will occur.

FEES

The Central Goldfields Shire Council ensures a friendly approach to attracting film and television production by the provision of a 'no fees policy' for film permit application processing. It should be noted however, that should a planning permit be required, permit fees may be applicable. Charges may also be incurred where Council personnel are required to be present during filming or in relation to the provision of additional services and resources requested from Council.

Council will not charge the production company fees for production/s that will occur on council owned land or property, unless existing fees apply to a particular area.

DAMAGE

Any damage caused to public or private property by the Production Company shall be repaired to the original condition in which the property stood at the time of damage; this shall be at the expense of the Production Company. The Production Company will accept the decision of the Central Goldfields Shire as to the reasonableness of the cost of making good any damage or as to the amount of full compensation.

LITTER & RUBBISH

The Production Company shall make adequate arrangements for the control and removal of all litter and rubbish at the expense of the Production Company.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Council requires evidence of a minimum \$10,000,000 public liability insurance to be provided by the production company prior to production commencing.

Film applications using the services of stunt performers are required to provide evidence of appropriate specialised risk insurance.

Compliance with all existing laws and pertinent regulations

Production activities must comply with all Local, State and Federal Laws, OH&S legislation and the particular laws, regulations and codes or practice of regulatory bodies.

LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Council endeavors where possible to promote the use of local facilities and services by inbound production companies and recognises the importance of retaining and maximizing economic benefits within the community and encourages production companies to utilise opportunities where possible for the 'buy in' of the local community.

Whilst council has a collaborative working relationship with these stakeholders, it indemnifies itself from any loss, damage or disruptions caused to the production company by any such third party.

FILMING DURING REGIONAL EVENTS

The Central Goldfields Shire incorporates a number of festivals and events on an annual basis, such events will have priority access to public spaces and facilities as per their normal requirements.

NOTIFICATION TIMETABLE

In order to maintain a balanced level of residential and trader amenity, filmmakers are required to notify in writing persons and businesses which may be affected by their presence.

The timeframe for this notification will be done in consultation with the General Manager Corporate and Community Services.

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES

The Central Goldfields Shire Council where possible, is entitled to photograph the crew during filming. All images will be used solely for promotional purposes to attract new production to the Central Goldfields Shire Council. Further consultation on this matter will be on a case-by-case basis.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Council reserves the right to have a representative present on location with the Production Company during filming. The Filming Permit must be available to be evidenced at the film set at all times along with any amendments or alterations to the original permit.

Film credits and media publicity should acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of the Central Goldfields Shire Council and its community, in addition to giving credit to any town or specific location featured.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Non-compliance with the terms of the Film Permit will be grounds for immediate cancellation of the Film Permit and the removal of the production crew and activity from the area.

COSTS OF CANCELLATION

Where the Central Goldfields Shire Council and/or its employees have incurred costs and the Production Company withdraws an application or incurs the cancellation of the film permit due to non-compliance with the terms of the film permit; then these costs will be passed on in full to the Production Company.

DAMAGE TO COUNCIL PROPERTY

All costs associated with clearing litter and other waste generated by the activities and for any damage to parks, irrigation, roads and other Council property will be borne by the production company.

CONTACT DETAILS

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**For location images and information
go to the Film Central Victoria Website:
www.filmcentralvictoria.com.au**