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Taking the NT Film and TV industry into the future

Members of the Film, Television and New Media industries are being called on to help the Government develop future opportunities to sell the Territory as the place to make and produce films and television.

Minister for Business, Industry and Resource Development Paul Henderson today launched "New Directions for the Film, Television and New Media Industries in the Northern Territory".

"The discussion paper outlines options as to how Government can work with the film and television industry to further develop production in the Territory," said Mr Henderson.

The discussion paper is a joint effort with Arts NT and the Northern Territory Tourist Commission.

"The Territory is both a harsh and beautiful land and we are custodians of a 40,000 year old indigenous culture," said Mr Henderson.

"Already, the world has seen the Territory’s talents and landscapes in films such as Yolngu Boy, Priscilla Queen of the Desert and Crocodile Dundee. In moving to the future, we need to look at how we can build on this good start and create new opportunities."

"The industry currently employs more than 60 people full time and others are employed on a casual or subcontractor basis," he said.

"In addition to these more immediate employment opportunities, developing our film and television productions will also be a big boost to our tourism industry, featuring as they do some of our most picturesque locations."

As well as calling for written responses to the Discussion Paper, which will be available at www.dbird.nt.gov.au, the Government will also hold discussion sessions in Alice Springs and Darwin in late January.

"The Government is committed to growing and developing the Territory economy," said Mr Henderson. "This Government-Film Industry partnership is a further step toward that goal."