



To whom it may concern,

The Travelling Film Festival is proud to work with a network of independent cinemas across regional and remote Australia, including Alice Springs Cinema, Katherine Cinema 3, Forum 6 Cinemas in Tamworth and Wagga Wagga, Orange Odeon 5, Lismore Cinemas, Mount Vic Flicks, Huskisson Pictures, Gala Twin Cinemas Warrawong and Warrina Cineplex Townsville. Across every location we visit, we see the same truth repeated: these cinemas are not simply venues, but vital cultural pillars that sit at the heart of their communities.

Through long-standing partnerships, TFF has come to know these cinemas as deeply embedded, much-loved institutions that genuinely care for the communities they serve. We return year after year because it is clear that each cinema operates with integrity, respect and a strong sense of responsibility to its audience. Together, we share a commitment to ensuring that regional and remote communities have access to the same quality of screen culture and festival experiences as metropolitan audiences. There are film lovers everywhere, and they all deserve access to high-quality cinema, regardless of their postcode.

At every stop on the festival's journey, the experience is strikingly similar. Audiences greet one another by name, return season after season, and treat the cinema as a familiar gathering place. In communities often facing complex social challenges, these cinemas offer something very powerful: a welcoming and accessible place to gather and connect.

From TFF's perspective, the independent cinemas we travel to are irreplaceable cultural anchors. With a year-round commitment to diverse programming and screen-culture events, including festivals like TFF, these cinemas keep regional communities connected to Australia's cultural conversation. Any loss or reduction of these cinemas would be felt well beyond the screen; it would mean a real diminishment of cultural life and shared community experience for regional Australia.

This cultural value is increasingly under pressure. The Independent Cinema Association estimates that approximately 60 per cent of Australia's cinema projection fleet, around 1,380 screens, will require replacement or major refurbishment within the next four years. This represents a national renewal challenge of approximately \$138 million. For independent cinemas operating in regional and remote communities, these costs are substantial and cannot be absorbed through day-to-day operations alone. Without targeted support, many of the cinemas that underpin cultural life in their communities face difficult choices about reducing services or deferring essential upgrades, placing long-term cultural access at risk.

We strongly support efforts to secure the future of independent cinemas across regional and remote Australia and recognise their value as both cultural and civic infrastructure. These cinemas are trusted, deeply valued institutions, and their continued operation is essential to the wellbeing, cohesion and cultural richness of their communities.

Regards,

Beatrix Brady
Travelling Film Festival Manager