

WEST COAST FILMING

Guide to:

August 2024

Our Commitment

People think they know Tasmania, but they don't know us. The West Coast is a unique, rugged, untamed land where paths are made, not followed. The West Coast of Tasmania is unlike any other place on Earth. Surrounded by the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, the landscape ranges from buttongrass plains to towering mountain ranges, from lakes larger than Sydney Harbour to some of the best rally roads on the planet.

We believe that the West Coast's clash of rough land and tough people is what makes us unique.

Our mission is to embrace the 'find a way or make a way' spirit, assisting locals, tourists, and investors in transforming the West Coast into a vibrant and sustainable community. Consequently, each day, we commit to striving for excellence, honouring our heritage, and taking proactive steps to shape our future.

Our objective is to

1. Connect place, people and stories
2. Celebrate individuality of each town and township
3. Unite and reignite the region through the West Coast Spirit
4. Put the brand in the hands of the community
5. Build a platform of collaboration and partnership

The West Coast's wilderness, small communities and built environment make an ideal backdrop for film, television and photography productions.



OPENING CREDITS

All productions coming to the West Coast should contact West Coast Council (“Council”) at least 4 weeks prior to shoot date to establish which components may require prior approvals to shoot. The West Coast Local Government Area is comprised of land owned by Council, the Department of State Growth (DSG), Hydro Tasmania, and Parks and Wildlife Services (PWS) assets. Each of these business units has a different application/permit process and processing times.

In addition, some land may be privately owned or form part of a mining lease. The process to gain access is dependant on the landowner. For privacy reasons, Council cannot divulge resident contact information, so this remains the responsibility of the production company to manage.

Council approval is required for productions that:

- Utilise Council assets;
- Use, require closure, or have exclusive use of streets, footpaths, parks or public spaces;
- Use free-standing equipment such as lighting, generators, dolly tracks and tripods that could be a danger to the public, or restrict public use of the area;

Filming and media production can impact upon several departments of Council. The [Growth and Change](#) team will coordinate the relevant departments. Film production companies are responsible for coordination of external interests including residents, traders and visitors. If helpful to the project, a meeting between the production company and relevant Council departments can be arranged.

Council, through its cultural strategy aims to:

- Connect creative people and form new collaborations and partnerships across the region;
- Represent the region and promote local creativity;
- Showcase the uniqueness and rich cultural heritage of the West Coast;

Filming via drone: All pilots must have current CASA certification and must comply with all CASA guidelines. Drone usage on PWS land (including Crown and Reserve Land) is subject to PWS approval process. Council has no authority or influence on the outcome of these applications.

SCENE ONE – ON LOCATION

Inclusion of our heritage, cultural and natural assets in your production contributes to the fabric of our region and we encourage their starring role. To ascertain accurate ownership information, plan your production, and provide accurate information to various departments (including Council) when seeking approvals, Council recommends using the [LISTmap](#).

The [Growth and Change](#) team maintain an up-to-date list of potential shoot locations across the region, which profiles a range of Council-owned assets, including images and basic descriptors. Where necessary, these also include contact information for Hydro Tasmania, DSG and PWS locations. View the current Production Locations document on Council's website.

Private Premises: To access privately-owned premises, production companies must obtain permission from the landowner, land manager, tenant, or a combination of these. Any of these parties has the right to restrict photography or filming. Contact should be made directly, and no private information can be shared by Council to facilitate this.

Council Premises: When production companies are photographing or filming on Council land or premises, the venue must be pre-booked with the West Coast Council. As much notice as is practical is recommended to ensure availability is secured and that any special site conditions can be adequately planned for. The Locations Request Form can be found on Council's website.

Vehicles & animals: There are specific approval processes for the use of vehicles and animals in productions in the region. Please provide detail of preferred location, type of access, any animals in use and any necessary welfare plans and requirements.

State, Federal & Crown Land: Approvals may be required should a production company intend photographing or filming any Government building or infrastructure. Some photography or filming may require the approval of other authorities, such as the Police or other relevant departments, for example when a road closure is required. Council can provide guidance on whether this is required if adequate information is obtained on the production requirements.

Please note: Applications for DSG, Hydro Tasmania or privately owned assets cannot be processed by West Coast Council.

SCENE TWO – SUSTAINABILITY, RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE

We care deeply for our community and our economic and social environment. The following sustainability guidelines are a base line of how our resources should be engaged:

- **Buy local, where possible:** Support our local businesses by staying close by, supplying locally provided catering to your crew and encouraging one or two days downtime where possible to ensure crew get out across our amazing region.
- **Enhance our region:** Our schools have budding actors, production assistants, film makers, set builders and screen writers. Why not engage them as part of your production? Alternatively, we have community groups, choirs, sporting organisations and local professionals experienced across a range of areas, and land care experts that can enhance your production while providing benefit across our region. Get creative and let us know what you can do!
- **Leave no Trace:** Once you're packed up and ready to go, look around and make sure you're leaving our region the same (or better!) than you found it. If you have inadvertently damaged something, please let us know so that we can plan and invoice the cost of damages appropriately and without issue. Waste removal or additional clean-up costs will also be invoiced to the production company if necessary.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Council requires that the safety of all involved, including the public, be considered by the production company, so a risk management plan (RMP) is required before approval can be provided for any production that involves Council assets including buildings, parks, roads, and footpaths.

Your risk management plan should include any potential risks identified and planned mitigation measures to address these. A comprehensive RMP is required as part of the application and the viability of the RMP will be assessed by Council's safety officers which may impact whether approval is granted.

INSURANCE

All applicants are required to provide evidence of appropriate public liability insurance cover prior to any necessary consents or permits being issued.

At the time of the photo or film shoot, the photographer or production company must provide details of Public Liability insurance cover to a minimum level of \$10,000,000. A copy of the Public Liability insurance certificate must be provided to Council.

SCREEN TAS

Screen Tasmania is the State Government agency responsible for supporting and developing the state's film, television, and multimedia industries by increasing the amount of independent screen production occurring in Tasmania. The purpose of Screen Tasmania is to:

- Take a leading role in building and growing the local screen industry and to identify opportunities and develop the industry in key areas of potential growth;
- Adopt innovative approaches to project development to improve production outcomes; and
- Continue to grow and evolve in order to meet the challenges of the changing media environment and to meet the demands of a rapidly expanding local screen sector.

Screen Tasmania offers a range of services including:

- Funding and support through loans, grants and equity investments in the development, production and marketing of Tasmanian screen projects including short films, drama, documentaries, feature films, TV series and digital media. Find out what makes a project eligible for funding and for how much funding your production is eligible.
- Assistance with crew, accommodation, equipment, post-production facilities, editing suites, catering and most importantly, local knowledge.
- Advice on how many crew and cast your company could engage from the local industry which can make a significant difference to the budget.
- See the Screen Tasmanian website for information on funding guidelines and Tasmanian crew and services, and for location inquiries, email: info@screen.tas.gov.au

CREDITS

WEST COAST COUNCIL

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West Coast Visitor Information Centre
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DESTINATION WEST COAST

Local Tourism Association
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TASMANIAN STATE GOVERNMENT

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PREQUELS

[Forever West of Centre](#)

[End of the Line](#)

[People of the West](#)

[The Tailings](#)

[Bay of Fires](#)

[The Bridge](#)

