

**Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson's Foreword for Benalla Short Film Festival**

The Victorian Government is proud to support the 2021 Benalla Short Film Festival. For over a decade the festival has continued to grow in popularity, becoming a regional staple that brings the community together to celebrate our home-grown creators.

Through Film Victoria, the Victorian Government has supported global and Australian stories being told and filmed in regional Victoria, providing emerging creators and practitioners with opportunities to grow and develop their skills. This festival connects audiences with short film makers, enabling them to have their work seen and kickstart their screen careers.

Our recently launched VICSCREEN strategy reinforces our vision to make Victoria a global powerhouse for screen, aiming to support 40,000 Victorian project jobs by 2025.

Congratulations to all participants taking part and to the Benalla Short Film Festival team for pulling this wonderful event together. Enjoy the festival!

**The Hon Danny Pearson MP Minister for Creative Industries.**