

4. FILM SOUTH FUNDING APPLICATION

Officer responsible Director of Business Projects	Author Ian Hay, DDI: 941 8474
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The purpose of this report is to submit a request from the Canterbury Development Corporation and Film South for funding for the period February–June 2003 pending a more permanent arrangement being put in place.

Film South is a regional development agency that was established two years ago and seed funded by a consortium of Christchurch organisations.

Initial funding came from

CDC	\$30,000
CCM Limited	\$30,000
Ashburton Enterprise Agency	\$10,000
Community Employment Group	\$72,000
Aoraki Development Trust	\$10,000
Christchurch International Airport	<u>\$50,000</u>
	\$202,000

The intent of establishing Film South was the attraction, promotion and support of film-making in Canterbury to build on the excellent publicity being generated by Lord of the Rings and documentaries being filmed in New Zealand. The seed funding runs out in January 2003 and the initial intent of being self funding by that date has not been achieved. The initial funders are not in a position to continue funding the operation past January 2003. During the last two years Film South has been instrumental in attracting 13 international television commercials to Canterbury (NZ \$8m value) plus 10 international documentaries from such companies as Nippon TV and BBC which are screened widely.

CDC have put in a bid for \$150,000 for next year's Annual Plan to provide core funding for the 2003/04 financial year but the urgent requirement is for \$100,000 being the shortfall from February 2003 to June 2003 which is currently unfunded. As there are a number of significant film projects in the pipeline (US \$180m value), a significant portion of which will be spent locally, as a result of the work already undertaken by Film South it is essential that ongoing funding for the next two years be made available. Other local authorities in New Zealand have recognised the economic benefit of attracting film-makers to their area and are contributing significant sums to providing help and infrastructure for potential opportunities.

There are no known sources of funds or substitutions currently available but the Council could address funding for the period February–June 2003 as part of the six monthly review and deal with future funding as part of the next Annual Plan round.

- Recommendation:**
1. That funding of \$100,000 be provided to Film South.
 2. That the source of the grant be identified at the six monthly review.