

Filming Policy

Purpose of this policy

This policy outlines the Authority's approach to filming in public spaces, venues and assets at Sydney Olympic Park.

To whom this policy applies

This policy applies to all employees of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

Policy statement

SOPA adopts the NSW Government's commitment to being film-friendly and making the state the most attractive destination in Australia for screen production.

Premier's Memorandum M2021-06 'Making NSW Film Friendly' outlines that it is the NSW Government's policy to reduce red tape and provide the highest possible level of co-operation with filmmakers to encourage screen production and thereby attract investors, job creation, growth in the economy and maintain the position of NSW as the premier destination for screen production in Australia.

Ministers, Chief Executive Officers and Film Contact Officers will continue to ensure that:

- there is a cooperative attitude in dealing with filming requests,
- applications for access are processed promptly,
- access to locations is supported wherever possible and should not be unreasonably withheld,
- clear reasons for refusal should be provided and alternative arrangements for sites offered, if possible,
- fees are kept to a minimum and should only reflect costs.
- Agencies should permit filming activities and/or make locations and facilities available for filmmakers where possible, considering public amenity, safety, security and other operational requirements. Requests for agency services should receive a positive response wherever possible, and
- Where filming access, services or approvals cannot reasonably be given, the filmmaker should be advised as early as possible of this response, reasons given for it, and alternatives suggested if possible.

Agencies should also ensure that:

- The Film Contact Officer network is maintained, and Create NSW provided with that name,
- The agency has filming policies, fee structures, application forms and contact details available on their website, and
- Create NSW should be informed of any changes to the Film Contact Officer so a current contact list can be maintained.

Create NSW will continue to support agencies and their Film Contact Officers in dealing with film queries. The Film Friendly Protocol and other resources can be accessed at www.screen.nsw.gov.au

Film and television are deadline-driven industry and enquiries and applications for film making must be processed promptly. Where an agency receives regular inquiries from film makers, they should give a guarantee of service and set time limits for processing of applications.

Agencies should permit filming activities, and/or make locations and facilities available for film makers wherever possible, taking into account public amenity, environmental protection, safety, security, and other operational requirement. Requests for agency services should also receive a positive response wherever possible. Where filming access, services or approvals cannot reasonably be given, the film maker should be advised as early as possible of the response with reasons and alternative suggestions, if possible.

SOPA will work closely with Create NSW to promote Sydney Olympic Park as a film location where it does not unreasonably impact on or compromise Sydney Olympic Park's core objectives.

Priority of use of public spaces, assets and parkland areas for filming projects

SOPA will prioritise filming projects over temporary place activation initiatives on the basis that:

- The film project does not conflict with a major venue event in a way where impacts cannot be managed,
- The film project does not conflict with the public's right to use the parklands for a significant length of time or in a way where impacts cannot be managed,
- The film project does not displace a third-party hirer/activation or a SOPA event that is confirmed and in market,
- The film project achieves a higher financial return, both directly to SOPA and indirectly to local businesses,
- The film project unlocks public relations opportunities and improves Sydney Olympic Park's reputation and profile, and
- Impacts to regular users of the spaces identified for the film projects can be managed effectively, with minimal complaints received.

Every effort should be made to provide as much notice and to minimise the impact on stakeholders and regular users, eg. filming should be outside of peak business periods, avoid high traffic areas and avoid peak commuter travel times, where possible.

Film projects involving use of SOPA's built and/or parkland assets will only be considered if there is one month's notice, from date of receipt of a full and complete application, to allow for proper approvals and to avoid impacts to third party hirers/activations.

Use of drones for filming and photography

Any projects involving the use of a drone for filming and/or photography require landowners consent from Sydney Olympic Park Authority and must comply with SOPA's Procedure for Drone or Remotely Piloted Aircraft use in the Public Domain at Sydney Olympic Park. Drone use will generally not be permitted in ecologically sensitive areas.

All applicants or drone pilots must demonstrate compliance with CASA rules and regulations to gain landowners consent to take off and land within Sydney Olympic Park.

The Authority will consider applications for:

- Commercial drone flight with required permits and licence
- Approval from CASA to fly in area - Combat agencies / emergency services / Government agencies / Sydney Olympic Park Authority

Contact Officer

Any enquiries relating to this Policy should be addressed to Manager, Precinct Operations.

Failure to comply with this policy

If you fail to comply with this policy, corrective action may be taken in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct. All employees, and others covered by the code, are expected to adhere to the ethical and behaviour standards outlined in the code.

Review timeframe

SOPA will review this policy no later than 3 years from the date the document is approved. The document may be reviewed earlier in response to post-implementation feedback, changes to legislation, or as necessary.

Related documents

Other policy documents that should be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Filming Procedure
- Fees, Charges and Revenue Generation Policy
- Fees and Charges Schedule
- Procedure for Drone or Remotely Piloted Aircraft use in the Public Domain

Legislation that should be read in conjunctions with this policy:

- Sydney Olympic Park Authority Regulation 2018

Policy metadata

Table 1. Policy metadata

Category	Description
Status	Final
Date of approval	September 2023
Approver	Director, Place Management & Stakeholder Engagement
Group	Homes, Property and Development
Division	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Policy owner	Manager, Precinct Operations
Branch	Precinct Operations
Document location	SOPA Intranet
Next review date	January 2026
Associated procedure	Procedure for Filming at Sydney Olympic Park Procedure for Drone or Remotely Piloted Aircraft use in the Public Domain at Sydney Olympic Park
Any additional applicability	N/A
Superseded document	POL11/4 - Filming at Sydney Olympic Park
Further information	N/A
Document Reference	POL11/4

Version control

Table 2. Version Control

Version	Date issued	Change
1	August 2011	
2	September 2011	
	December 2012	Reviewed
	January 2014	Reviewed by Filming & Licences Coordinator
2.1	January 2015	Minor Update by Filming & Licences Coordinator

Version	Date issued	Change
2.2	January 2016	Minor Update by Filming & Licences Coordinator
2.3	No update	Reviewed
2.4	January 2018	Minor Update by Filming & Licences Coordinator
2.5	February 2022	Minor Update by Filming & Licences Coordinator
3	September 2023	Review and update to new format and separation of former Permitting Filming and Photography in the Public Domain Policy into a separate Policy and Procedure

Appendices

Not applicable