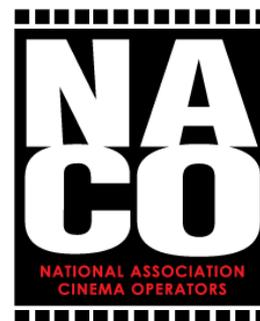


5 May, 2020



### **Cinema Industry Hoping for July Re-opening:**

The Board of the National Association of Cinema Operators (NACO) met today and agreed to the following statement:

The Board is enthusiastic about the prospect of re-opening and is hopeful of conditions enabling it to do so in July. The Board is very mindful of social distancing restrictions needing to be put in place and acknowledges that the impact this will have on trading due to these reduced capacities.

The Board is conscious that it will not re-open before the government determines that it is safe for cinemas to do so. The Association has developed an Australian industry standard for sanitisation that it feels confident the industry can achieve. These will include staggered session times and spaced seating to meet social distancing requirements, contactless and cashless transactions wherever possible, investment in sanitisation stations where appropriate and increased frequency of cleaning cinemas, staff 'wellness' policies to ensure the wellbeing of staff and the promotion of the Government CoVidSafe app download amongst staff and customers. It will continue its campaign about hygiene in public spaces. Our operator's highest priority is the safety and wellbeing of their employees and guests, and we will continue to meet this responsibility. We are confident in the ability for our industry to meet these standards.

The Board also confirmed that it will not be possible to re-open until the major Hollywood studios confirm that the cinema releases that they have postponed or re-dated are available for the big screen theatrical global release that they were intended for. NACO acknowledges that studios will not release new titles until the majority of cinemas are opened around the world.

The Board thanked all of its stakeholders and particularly film distributors for their patience during the closure period and for holding their titles over for the re-opening to enable the public to see them on the big screen, as the film makers intended them to be seen.

Cinemas are critical cultural institutions for the economic and social rebuilding of our local communities, not just in our city centres but also middle and outer suburbs and regional Australia. We know our customers cannot wait to visit their local cinemas and we look forward to welcoming Australian audiences back to their local cinema soon with a slate of blockbuster movies including No Time to Die, Top Gun: Maverick, Mulan, Wonder Woman 1984, Peter Rabbit 2 and I Am Woman.

### **ABOUT NACO:**

NACO is the peak body representing cinema operators across Australia, established to act in the interests of all cinema operators. NACO represents cinema operators across Australia, including Event, Village Roadshow, Hoyts and Reading, as well as many independent and regional cinemas. We represent over 2,000 screens in nearly 500 locations.. The cinema industry generates \$2 billion annual turnover, representing 85 million annual admissions, employing around 12,000 staff nationally, and paying \$456 million in wages annually. Cinemas are a cultural institution – it is the

number one cultural activity in Australia and an essential community hub, particularly in regional areas.

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**National Association of Cinema Operators-Australasia**

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