

# Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Mineral Resources  
Minister for State Development



October 28, 2009

## NSW GOVERNMENT SECURES TV DRAMA FOR SYDNEY

The NSW Government has helped secure production in Sydney of a new FOXTEL television series - "*Spirited*" - generating \$6.4 million in production spend and employing over 140 cast and crew, Minister for State Development Ian Macdonald said.

Mr Macdonald said the Film and Television Industry Attraction Fund has helped secure the production by Southern Star, Australia's largest independent television production and distribution group.

The eight one hour episode series starts production this week and will be completed by March 2010.

"This latest boost to TV drama production activity builds on recent high profile series secured for NSW including *Underbelly III*, currently filming in Sydney, and *Rescue Special Ops*", said Mr Macdonald.

*Spirited* will be a 'ghost love story' starring and co-produced by the award winning Australia actor Claudia Karvan.

Commissioned by FOXTEL for its W Channel, the series will be produced by the creators of the successful FOXTEL TV series *Love My Way*, John Edwards, Claudia Karvan and Jacquelin Perske.

Mr Macdonald said *Spirited* is the latest major television series secured for the State with NSW Government assistance.

"The 13-part television drama series *Rescue* which premiered on Channel 9 in August has injected an estimated \$10.8 million into the economy and employed over 300 people," Mr Macdonald said.

"*Underbelly III*, currently in production in Sydney, is generating over \$12 million in film industry work and supporting 170 jobs.

"The June budget delivered a \$5 million boost to screen production support in NSW with the doubling of the Screen NSW Production Investment Fund. This injection of funds will further enhance the opportunities for TV drama production in NSW", Mr Macdonald said.