CHRYSAOR STUDIOS · OCTOBER 2026

THE GOLD COAST SCREEN PRODUCTION REPORT

What's happening in the Gold Coast screen industry, and what can happen next: more local stories, more commercial content, more jobs, and a city that owns a bigger share of the work it makes.

An independent report by Christopher Amos, Founder and CEO, Chrysaor Studios. Not a publication of the City of Gold Coast, Invest Gold Coast or any government agency. Industry figures from the Queensland Government, QUT and Screen Australia; Chrysaor figures indicative, pending finalisation of the FY2026 accounts. Not an offer of any kind.



THE NUMBERS

AUSTRALIA'S SCREEN CITY, IN SIX FIGURES

$925M

spent on screen production in Queensland in 2024/25, a record. 34% of the national market, the number one State for the first time

5,000+

Queensland cast, crew and creatives employed every year, and the Gold Coast carries 39% to 71% of the State's drama spend

$15–200

of local spend for every $1 the City invests through its Screen Attraction Program. Screen is one of the City's six priority sectors

50+

Gold Coast screen businesses, owner-operated, who have put their own money into gear, crews and facilities

$17.5M

of locally owned film and television in development at Chrysaor Studios alone, planned to shoot here with local crews

2032

Creative production and content delivery is a named Brisbane 2032 procurement category. The decade starts now

EVERY STAGE THAT OPENS HERE LIFTS EVERY OTHER ONE.
THE CITY WINS WHEN THE WORK STAYS.

WHERE THIS COMES FROM

FIVE YEARS, ONE MISSION, AND WHAT IT TAUGHT ME

Nobody builds a studio by accident: a decade of learning the whole business of screen and, since 2021, five years on a single mission, a locally owned studio on the Gold Coast.

2019 to 2022	Wrote, directed and produced **Hating Peter Tatchell** (Ian McKellen, Stephen Fry; executive producers Elton John and David Furnish): MIFF premiere, three years exclusive on Netflix worldwide, AIB and Queer Screen awards
2022 to 2023	Screen Producers Australia Ones to Watch, mentored by Tony Ayres. Screen Australia Screen Enterprise: three months inside World of Wonder in Los Angeles, and a lesson in how much can be made under one roof in the middle of a city
2023 to 2024	Released the Academy Award nominated Four Daughters in Australia and New Zealand. Looked at dozens of sites and found a converted church in Varsity Lakes that could hold two stages under one roof
2025	Creative Plus Business, the three-month program for creative founders with Monica Davidson: the business model behind the studio, stress-tested before opening
2024 to 2026	A State capital grant, matched by the company and its partners. Built, opened in April 2026, and nine productions in the first six months

WHERE THIS COMES FROM

THE HONEST PART

I had seen the model work in Los Angeles and in London: a studio in the middle of a city, with stages, offices and post under one roof, where a small team can take a story from idea to delivery. The Gold Coast needed one. I had been saying so to industry leaders for four years before I found the building to prove it.

The build was where the plan met reality. Like many owner-builders, I learned the hard way: early advice that cost more than it saved, and contractors who are now matters for the building regulator rather than for this report. Each time, I corrected course, kept the site moving and protected the grant. A licensed team finished the job. The studio opened six months later than planned and a great deal dearer, and the overrun ate the marketing budget I had set aside for launch. So I opened the doors with almost no marketing money and one founder selling: LinkedIn, newsletters, word of mouth, and fifty site visits in six months that came almost entirely from direct outreach.

What I have built is worth building on. The studio works. The people who have walked through it say the same two things: they wish it had been here earlier, and they want to shoot here next year. It is financially viable at a fraction of its capacity, it has a slate of its own, and it has fifty other Gold Coast screen businesses around it who want the same future. What it has lacked is not demand but resources at the moment it needed them most. That is a fixable problem, and this report is about fixing it with the city rather than alone. Every setback in those five years is a reason this is worth protecting, not a reason to doubt it. I am ready to make my own productions here now, and the studio comes first.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

THE GOLD COAST IS AUSTRALIA'S SCREEN CITY. THE TIDE IS RISING.

Queensland led the nation in screen production for the first time in 2024/25, and most of that work happened here. The city's infrastructure is growing on every tier.

Village Roadshow Studios

The largest studio lot in the Southern Hemisphere: nine sound stages, three water tanks, more than 155 productions since 1988, and 18 support businesses on the lot

Where Chrysaor fits: second unit, pick-ups and virtual production days for the big shoots

Shadowbox Studios, Yatala

The City's preferred proponent for a 22-hectare precinct of up to ten sound stages: 1,000 construction jobs, 3,400 direct and indirect jobs once complete, phase one planned for 2028

Where Chrysaor fits: open now, and a natural partner for the productions a precinct of that scale will attract

Pinnacle Studios

Two sound stages totalling more than 4,365 m^2, production offices, virtual production through PROXi, and more than 15 major productions hosted, including Mortal Kombat II; a new stage complex due in late 2026

Where Chrysaor fits: a fellow independent. More stages make a stronger city

WHAT'S HAPPENING

RISING SHIPS, CONTINUED

HOTA, and the planned Miami Arts Depot

HOTA, the city's arts centre, and the Miami Arts Depot: a planned 4-hectare creative precinct with film, games and VFX production space, now seeking a development partner

Where Chrysaor fits: stages for the arts now, and a neighbour to the precinct

AACTA on the Gold Coast to 2028

The national awards and festival, every year, in our city

Where Chrysaor fits: local titles on local screens

Brisbane 2032

A $2.5 billion procurement pipeline with creative production as a named category

Where Chrysaor fits: virtual production, simulation and content, made locally

Bond, QUT, Griffith, SAE and TAFE Coomera

Five film and screen schools, from degrees to TAFE diplomas, turning out the next generation of crew and creatives every year

Where Chrysaor fits: placements, student shoots and a first job close to home

Independent screen businesses

3D scanning at Myriad Studios, VFX at FIN, camera and grip at Cine2481, stunt teams, and 21 suppliers on our local services directory

Where Chrysaor fits: a stage that sends the work back to them

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AND A LOCALLY OWNED STUDIO HAS JOINED THEM



Chrysaor Studios opened in Varsity Lakes in April 2026: two stages under one roof, including a permanent open-access LED volume for virtual production, 15 minutes from Gold Coast Airport and under an hour from Brisbane. Converted with a State grant the company matched, and a social enterprise committed to reinvesting half its profit in local screen work. Nine productions and activations in its first six months, for clients including Netflix, Stan Originals and Paramount+, and a steady stream of producers, brands and creatives in conversation about using it.

EVERY STAGE THAT OPENS HERE LIFTS EVERY OTHER ONE.
THE CITY WINS WHEN THE WORK STAYS.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

THE BIG SHOOTS BRING THE WORLD HERE

In 2025 Village Roadshow Studios hosted Voltron for Amazon MGM Studios, the second season of Monarch: Legacy of Monsters for Apple TV+, Godzilla x Kong: Supernova, Subversion with Chris Hemsworth, and Netflix's The Golden Ticket: more than 2,000 local cast and crew jobs and an estimated $370 million for Queensland (Ausfilm, March 2026).

The work in between keeps the crews here

Big productions arrive, peak and move on. Between them, the same crews, rental houses, VFX studios and production services need work: commercials, music videos, local features and series, virtual production days and pick-ups. That is the work a mid-scale, open-access stage carries, and it keeps skilled people on the Gold Coast instead of chasing the next job interstate.

KEEP THE CREWS WORKING BETWEEN THE BIG SHOOTS, AND THE BIG SHOOTS KEEP COMING.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WHO MAKES IT HAPPEN

The Rebel Fleet

Production services from whole shows to dailies, VFX and post, with a Gold Coast office.

FIN

Visual effects and design for film, series, advertising and trailers since 2001, with a Gold Coast studio.

Myriad Studios

3D scanning: digital doubles of locations, sets, props and people, based at Village Roadshow Studios.

Cine2481

Cameras, lenses, lighting, grip and audio for hire, from Burleigh Heads.

Film Freelancers

The Gold Coast crew network, connecting productions with local cast and crew.

Generate Crew

A Gold Coast social enterprise that trains and supports behind-the-camera crew for major productions.

Screen Well

Mental health and psychosocial safety training and support for screen workplaces.

The Village Roadshow lot

18 support businesses on site, from Panavision and Disney Lighting to creature workshops and drone builders.

Brisbane, up the M1

Under an hour away: a second crew base, post houses and stages. One region, two cities, one workforce.

Our full list of 21 local suppliers is at chrysaor.com.au/local-services.

THE OPPORTUNITY

RECORD SPEND. FEWER LOCAL TITLES. THAT GAP IS THE OPPORTUNITY.

In the same year Australian screen spend hit a record, the number of Australian titles going into production fell from 89 to 71. Big international shoots fill the stages. Local stories, commercial content and independent producers get squeezed out. A city that fixes that owns more of its own industry.

Local stories

Productions attracted from outside spend here once and leave. Productions owned here spend here every time, and keep the rights, the profits and the next project in the city. The Gold Coast needs a slate of its own.

Commercial content

Brands, music, creators, corporate, simulation and training content do not wait for government funding. They need an affordable stage, fast turnaround and a crew they can trust. That market is the fastest to grow, and it is barely served.

Interstate business

Sydney and Melbourne producers pay 30% to 40% more for a stage. A Gold Coast stage a short flight away, with a production office and a local crew, is a reason to bring the whole shoot north.

THE OPPORTUNITY

ACCESS IS THE STRATEGY

The big stages serve the big productions, and should. The opportunity is everyone else: the local feature with a script and a crew but no stage budget; the band that needs a day on an LED volume; the brand that wants a destination campaign without weather days; the university that wants students on a working floor; the interstate producer whose stage fell through. Make the Gold Coast the easiest and most affordable place in Australia to make content, and the content comes.

ANYONE WHO IS CREATIVE IS WELCOME HERE.



VIRTUAL PRODUCTION

WHAT A STUDIO AND A VOLUME GIVE YOU

One address, every scene

Your lighting rig is still standing in the morning. No permits, no unit moves, no convoy across town between setups. Weather never costs you a day or breaks your continuity.

What the volume adds

Change the location between takes. Driving and travel shots without a road closure or a tow rig. Final pixel in camera, so less goes to post. Golden hour that holds all day, and actors who can see what they are in.

The details that save days

Air conditioned stages, sound you control, lock up at wrap with sets and gear exactly where you left them, 22 bays of monitored parking, a canteen and one load-in off the street.

Full guide at chrysaor.com.au/virtual-production. Specs in the facility brochure.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

FIVE THINGS, ALREADY MOVING, THAT GROW THE SECTOR AND THE JOBS

1 The Gold Coast Screen Association

Owner-operated screen businesses coming together as one voice, with a shared register of crews, gear, facilities, grants and buyers. Three town halls over six months, the first at Chrysaor Studios.

A supply chain the city can see, count and sell

2 Chrysaor Studios: affordable, open access

Two stages and a permanent LED volume, open to any production at any scale. Introductions to local service providers, feasibility and budget help, and a review of any producer's one-pager, free.

A front door for local, commercial and interstate content

3 The Gold Coast Twinning Project

A shared, production-ready library of Gold Coast locations as 3D scans and plates, built for virtual production, owned by a neutral industry body with university and government partners.

A city-owned asset for screen, tourism, 2032 and training

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

FIVE THINGS, CONTINUED

4 The Chrysaor production slate

Eight original titles, $17.5 million in development, every one planned to shoot here with local crews, from a thriller and a parody comedy to TV formats and festival documentaries.

About $44 to $52 million of local activity and around 95 jobs, with the rights staying here

5 A local IP uplift

Local stories developed, owned and financed from the Gold Coast, with the Association's register pointing producers to the grants, commissioners and sales agents that get them made.

Returnable series and formats that keep spending here year after year

How the City can help, at little cost

- Point Screen Attraction Program productions to Gold Coast stages for stage days, second unit and pick-ups.
- Make the City's own content here: HOTA, Experience Gold Coast, 2032 and destination campaigns on a local stage with local crews.
- Co-convene the Screen Association town halls and support the register.
- Give local stage operators a seat in screen and economic development planning and the 2032 creative pipeline.
- Help the Twinning pilot happen. The City is a direct beneficiary.

WHAT GETS MADE HERE

FROM A $3,000 MUSIC VIDEO TO A $200,000 SERIES

Since April, producers, brands and creatives of every size have come to Chrysaor Studios with a project in mind. Together they show the range of work a Gold Coast stage can carry, and most of it has nothing to do with government funding. Virtual production leads the enquiries: the showcases and test days on the LED volume have validated that demand, and several of those conversations have become bookings.

Commercials and brand content

Tourism, property and product campaigns, including a HOTA and Experience Gold Coast TVC

Music videos, creators and corporate

Artists using the LED volume for one-day shoots, creator studios, launches and training content

Feature films, larger budget

Studio-based dramas and thrillers, several using the LED volume for locations

TV series and drama

Scripted series, factual series, a children's series and a streaming drama

WHAT GETS MADE HERE

MADE HERE, SERVED TO THE WORLD

Think of it as a kitchen. The studio is the kitchen. The local suppliers are the ingredients. The cast, crew and creators are the cooks. The brands, broadcasters, platforms and audiences they make for are the people it is served to.

Low-budget features and shorts

Local independent filmmakers making their first and second features here

Education and virtual production showcases

Universities, placements, workshops, previsualisation and R&D on the volume

Tenancies, offices and edit suites

Screen businesses wanting desks, offices and post rooms beside the stages

Simulation, documentary, events and formats

Virtual locations shot in a day, interviews and post, a cinema event, a travelling trivia format



WHAT GETS MADE HERE

TELL US YOUR BUDGET

Affordable by design

Published rates with no admin fee, no weekend loading and no public holiday surcharge. Power, air conditioning, canteen, parking and 2 Gbps fibre included. A free stage day on any booking confirmed by 16 October, and 20% off a first booking. Tell us your budget: we would rather find a way than see a stage sit empty.

Whatever it takes to help

Introductions to the 21 Gold Coast suppliers on our directory. Feasibility and budget help for a project at any stage. A free review of any producer's one-pager. A Gold Coast production office and address for the length of your shoot.

Producing from interstate?

If your stage has fallen through or your dates have moved, we are a short flight away: two stages under one roof, 15 minutes from Gold Coast Airport, and the Australian and Queensland incentives may offset part of your spend. Make us your Queensland base.

LOCAL STORIES, MADE HERE

THE SLATE: $17.5 MILLION OF PRODUCTIONS THE GOLD COAST DOESN'T HAVE TO ATTRACT

Each of the eight development titles is owned here, planned to shoot at Chrysaor Studios with local crews, and hires the studio at arm's-length rates. Each raises its own production finance in its own company. Budgets are indicative.



Motorhome
Feature thriller · $2.5M · shoots Feb 2027



A Spoof Odyssey
Parody comedy feature · $2.5M · 2027



Chumpets
Adult puppet comedy, 10 x 22 · $7.3M · 2028



Aussie Buskers
Game show format, 13 x 60 · $2.06M · Q4 2027



Builder Rescue Gold Coast
Factual entertainment, 8 x 22 · $716K



Unseen Victories
Feature documentary · $800K · 2028



Coalspiracy
Documentary series, 3 x 60 · $1.45M



OppRussian
One-hour documentary · $165K · 2027



Dancing Queens
UK comedy drama feature · in development



Hating Peter Tatchell
Finished feature doc · second-window release



Dressed as a Girl & Drag Up!
Catalogue re-release and sequel



Four Daughters
Distribution, Australia and New Zealand

LOCAL STORIES, MADE HERE

WHAT THE SLATE MEANS FOR THE CITY

6 of 8

slate titles sit above the $750,000 threshold of the City's Screen Attraction Program

$44–52M

of local activity at $2.50 to $3.00 per $1 spent (Deloitte Access Economics, industry figure)

~95 jobs

at Queensland's ratio of 5,000+ cast, crew and creatives per $925M of spend

Program eligibility is assessed on Gold Coast spend by the City and is not assumed for any title. Multiplier and jobs figures describe the industry, not the company's own results.



WHAT CAN HAPPEN: ONE VOICE

THE GOLD COAST SCREEN ASSOCIATION: ONE VOICE FOR LOCAL SCREEN

More than fifty Gold Coast screen businesses have put their own money into facilities, gear and crews, and most of them work alone. The Gold Coast Screen Association brings them together as one voice to the city, the State and the industry.

What it will do

- Speak for Gold Coast screen businesses to city and State screen bodies with one voice
- Keep a shared register of crews, gear and facilities for hire, so productions can staff and kit a shoot locally
- Keep a shared register of grants, commissioners and sales agents, so local producers know where the money and the buyers are
- Push for more domestic content and returnable series made on the Gold Coast

How it is being built

- Grew out of an industry leaders gathering at Chrysaor Studios in September 2026
- Being shaped with the Gold Coast Film Commission and the region's screen skills and jobs network, with interest from local and federal representatives
- Six months and three town hall symposiums, the first at Chrysaor Studios
- A survey of Gold Coast screen businesses is under way to set the agenda

WHAT CAN HAPPEN: ONE VOICE

WHY NOW

- Queensland had a record $925 million production year, yet Australian titles going into production fell by a fifth
- Big international shoots fill the stages; local stories and independent producers get squeezed out
- Projects green-lit here have moved interstate when timing slipped. A united local industry is the answer

The local supply chain is already here

Chrysaor publishes a directory of Gold Coast screen suppliers it works with and recommends, at **chrysaor.com.au/local-services**. "Gold Coast made. Industry approved." The ingredients, ready for the kitchen.



WHAT CAN HAPPEN: ONE VOICE

GOLD COAST MADE. INDUSTRY APPROVED.

Crew and production

Four crew agencies and production services, including Film Freelancers, the Gold Coast crew network, and a crew wellbeing service

Grip, lighting and camera

Three equipment and grip houses

Post-production and VFX

Four post, visual effects and virtual production houses

Audio

Three sound design, mix and audio post houses

Vehicles, facilities and logistics

Unit vehicles, facilities trucks and a screen travel specialist

Makeup, styling and construction

Special effects makeup, hair and makeup, set construction and fit-out

Ethical production

Sustainable production practice

Twenty-one businesses at the time of writing, with more joining. Any Gold Coast screen business can ask to be listed.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN: THE GOLD COAST, TWINNED

DIGITISING THE GOLD COAST FOR THE WORLD'S PRODUCTIONS

We scanned our own studio in twenty minutes and turned it into a photoreal 3D model that runs on the LED volume. Now we want to do that for the Gold Coast itself.

What it is

A shared, production-ready library of Gold Coast locations: beaches, hinterland, streets and landmarks captured as 3D scans and plates, built for Unreal Engine and LED volumes. A production anywhere in the world could scout the Gold Coast from its desk, then shoot it on a stage here without a single road closure.

Who it serves

Screen production first, then tourism and destination marketing, Brisbane 2032 venue planning, health and training simulation, and the city's global brand. One capture, many uses, with the Gold Coast owning its own digital likeness.

Where it stands

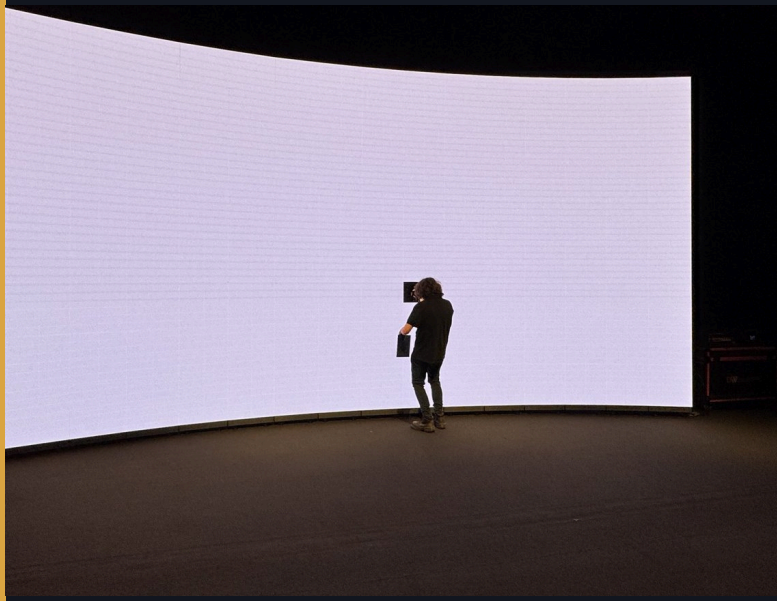
A research paper, cost analysis and feasibility study is with the Gold Coast Film Commission. We are in conversation with university and government partners and local scanning and virtual production specialists about a pilot of 20 locations, governed by a neutral industry body with a Traditional Owner seat at the table.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN: THE GOLD COAST, TWINNED

WHY A CITY SHOULD OWN ITS OWN TWIN

- Every production that shoots a Gold Coast beach on a Gold Coast stage spends its money here, not on location in another state.
- A library the city shares in keeps the licensing value local instead of handing it to a single private vendor.
- The same assets train students, support the 2032 Games and sell the destination, from one investment.

Proof of concept: Chrysaor Studios has itself been twinned as a 3D Gaussian splat model from a twenty-minute scan, and runs on the LED volume today. Pilot costs, licensing terms and partners are under discussion and not yet committed.



WHO IS BEHIND IT

CHRISTOPHER AMOS, FOUNDER AND CEO

Thirty years in media and screen in Australia and the UK. Writer, director and producer of **Hating Peter Tatchell**, featuring Ian McKellen and Stephen Fry and executive produced by Elton John and David Furnish, premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival and streamed exclusively on Netflix worldwide for three years: winner of the AIB Award for Best Streaming Documentary and the Queer Screen audience award, nominated by the Australian Directors' Guild and Screen Producers Australia.

Producer of **Dressed as a Girl**, and Australian and New Zealand distributor of the Academy Award nominated **Four Daughters**. Former Editor-in-Chief of Bent magazine in the UK and a London business owner for two decades. Screen Producers Australia Ones to Watch, mentored by Tony Ayres; one of 18 practitioners nationally funded by Screen Australia for a placement at World of Wonder in Los Angeles. MA Screenwriting (London), BA Film and Television (QUT). A Queenslander, from Rockhampton.

He built Chrysaor Studios because he wanted to make his own LED volume feature in Queensland rather than interstate, and found there was nowhere to do it. His full credits are on Wikipedia. The soundstage is named for his great-uncle, Kevin Weldon AO, founder of Hanna-Barbera Australia and a builder of Australian creative industries.

WHO IS BEHIND IT

CHRYSAOR STUDIOS

492 Scottsdale Drive, Varsity Lakes, Gold Coast QLD 4227

Social Traders certified social enterprise to August 2028. UN Global Compact signatory. Member, Screen Producers Australia.

Facility hire by Chrysaor Pty Ltd. Virtual production technical services by Animax Studios, the on-site partner.

Facility brochure · Virtual production guide · Enquiry form

chrysaor.com.au · chris@chrysaor.com.au · 0423 729 245

The flywheel: half the profit goes back in

Chrysaor is a certified social enterprise. At least half of its profit is committed to local screen work: the slate, student placements, the Screen Association and the Twinning Project. Bookings fund local stories, local stories bring more bookings, and the city keeps a bigger share of the work it makes.

THE GOLD COAST SPENDS $925 MILLION A YEAR MAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S STORIES. IT IS TIME WE MADE MORE OF OUR OWN.

THE EVIDENCE

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Queensland Government, record screen production year (Dec 2025)

A record $925 million spent on screen production in Queensland in 2024/25, 34% of the national market and the number one State for the first time. More than 5,000 local cast, crew and creatives employed every year.

QUT Digital Media Research Centre, A Re-Evaluation of Screen Production on the Gold Coast After COVID-19 (2023, for the City of Gold Coast)

The Gold Coast accounted for 39% to 71% of Queensland's drama production spend. Employment of film, TV and creative specialists grew nearly three times faster than average employment. Stage and facility capacity examined as a barrier to growth.

Screen Australia, Production Infrastructure and Capacity Analysis (PICA), by Olsberg SPI (April 2026)

Four national challenges: business scalability, skills gaps, career progression and infrastructure constraints, with coordinated sound stage capacity planning named as an opportunity.

City of Gold Coast, Screen Attraction Program

Up to $50,000 to $250,000 per production, expecting $15 to $200 of Gold Coast spend for every $1, with at least half of crew Gold Coast based.

Tap any report to open it.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

COME AND BE PART OF IT

Producers and filmmakers

Send us your dates, your budget or your one-pager. We will tell you honestly what is feasible, introduce you to local suppliers, and find a way to get you on a stage.

Brands, bands and creators

A day on an LED volume changes what you can make. Come and see it. Bring your idea; we will help you cost it.

Gold Coast screen businesses

Join the Gold Coast Screen Association and the local services directory at **chrysaor.com.au/local-services**. One voice, one register, more work.

Partners and sponsors

The studio is open to sponsorship and partnership: naming, equipment, training and content partnerships, and the City's own content. We are happy to have the financial conversation in the open. Ask for the numbers and you will get them.

Christopher Amos
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SOURCES AND ASSUMPTIONS

THE FINE PRINT

Industry figures as cited in the research page. Slate budgets from each title's current package, September 2026, indicative and unfinanced. Economic multiplier of $2.50 to $3.00 per $1 from Deloitte Access Economics studies of the Australian screen sector; jobs ratio from Queensland Government reporting for 2024/25; both describe the industry, not the company's own results. Studio activity from the company CRM to 10 October 2026. Rising ship figures from public announcements.

Chrysaor figures indicative, pending finalisation of the FY2026 accounts. Not a statutory account and not an offer of any kind.

The Gold Coast Screen Production Report, October 2026. Christopher Amos, Founder and CEO, Chrysaor Studios. 492 Scottsdale Drive, Varsity Lakes, Gold Coast QLD 4227.

