



**Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
of Ukraine to Australia**

Ref. #61513/22-110-24

To: The Hon. John Graham MLC

NSW Minister for the Arts

January 29, 2025

Dear Minister,

I write to seek a meeting or a phone conversation with you to express my strong concern with regard to a film to be featured by the Antenna Documentary Film Festival (Sydney, 6-16 February 2025) of which the NSW Government and Screen NSW are official Government Partners.

The film is entitled "Russians at War". My view is that it is a propaganda piece that seeks to humanise Russian military forces involved in war crimes - rather than a work of legitimate documentary film-making or genuine artistic expression. For example, the soldiers are depicted as somehow hapless victims rather than the voluntary participants in Moscow's war effort that they are.

It is also very clear that the showing of the film will be extremely hurtful to the Ukrainian diaspora in NSW, particularly those of its members who have directly experienced the impacts of Russia's illegal and unilateral invasion, as well as to other citizens and taxpayers.

While I understand that the Festival's organisers have committed to somehow contextualising the film, its showing is inconsistent with both their own professed solidarity with the Ukrainian people and with the NSW Government's on-going, steadfast and public support of Ukraine's fight for democracy (for which I am very grateful).

Perhaps, you would consider a public statement distancing the NSW Government from the showing of the film, if it were to proceed. Thank you in advance for considering my request.

Contact person from the Embassy – first secretary Mr Pavlo Troian pavlo.troian@mfa.gov.ua, +61 461 473 183.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Vasyl Myroshnychenko

Ambassador