

At a glance:

The Walt Disney Corporation/New Zealand Government

***Pete's Dragon* agreement: key elements**

The New Zealand Screen Production Grant (NZSPG) was introduced in April 2014 and offers a rebate of 20 per cent of Qualifying New Zealand Production Expenditure for international productions. An additional 5 per cent grant is offered for applicants that are able to meet the significant economic benefits points test.

Walt Disney Pictures has received provisional approval for a grant of 25% for their feature *Pete's Dragon* in exchange for the following:

1. Defined production spend and employment

- 1.1. At least 90% of the shoot to be carried out in New Zealand;
- 1.2. At least 75% of the total budget for visual effects production to be spent in New Zealand;
- 1.3. At least six key personnel roles to be filled by New Zealanders;
- 1.4. At least 75% of the production crew to be New Zealanders;
- 1.5. An agreed minimum amount of production expenditure in New Zealand.*¹

2. A collaborative marketing partnership to assist New Zealand's wider interests

- 2.1. A detailed agreement with Tourism New Zealand and Film New Zealand which enables New Zealand to promote and enhance New Zealand's screen and tourism interests;
- 2.2. Information on the details of this partnership will be made available closer to the film's release in mid-2016;
- 2.3. Post-launch leverage e.g. behind-the-scenes "featurette" included in the DVD/Blu-ray.

3. Assistance with New Zealand screen industry skills and talent development

- 3.1. Creative mentorship for a team of New Zealand writers, an associate producer role for an emerging New Zealand producer, and a senior franchise/marketing/publicity liaison role.

¹ The amount is confidential. Actual spend will be published by the New Zealand Film Commission in due course, as per all incentivised production.

Pete's Dragon

A reimagining of the 1977 Disney classic, *Pete's Dragon* will blend live action and CGI to tell the story of the special bond between an orphaned boy, Pete, and his best friend, Elliott, who just happens to be a dragon. Principal Photography on the Walt Disney Pictures film *Pete's Dragon* commenced on 21 January 2015 and the film will be released in 2016.

The film stars Bryce Dallas Howard (*The Help*) as Grace, a park ranger who discovers the existence of Elliott; 10-year-old Oakes Fegley (*This is Where I Leave You*) as Pete; Wes Bentley (*The Hunger Games*) as Jack, a local mill owner; New Zealand native Karl Urban (*Star Trek Into Darkness*) as Jack's brother, Gavin; Oona Laurence as Natalie, the young girl who befriends Pete; and Oscar® winner Robert Redford (*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, *All the President's Men*) as Grace's father.

Pete's Dragon is directed by David Lowery (*Ain't Them Bodies Saints*) and produced by Jim Whitaker, with Barrie Osborne serving as executive producer. The screenplay is by Lowery and Toby Halbrooks. WETA Digital will utilise the latest in digital effects to bring the dragon, Elliott, to life. Weta Workshop is assisting with specialty costume elements and rigs. The film is scheduled to be released in U.S. theatres in August, 2016.

The production is based in Wellington's Stone Street Studios with filming taking place in locations around New Zealand including Wellington, the Rotorua area and the lower South Island.