



Australian Government

Classification Review Board

5 September 2016

Media release— *Blair Witch* classified MA 15+

A three-member panel of the Classification Review Board has unanimously determined that the film *Blair Witch* is classified **MA 15+ (Mature Accompanied)** with the consumer advice 'Strong supernatural themes'.

The National Classification Code and Classification Guidelines requires the treatment of strong themes to be justified by context at the MA15+ level. In the Classification Review Board's opinion *Blair Witch* warrants an MA 15+ classification because the supernatural theme is strong in impact.

The overall impact of the classifiable elements in the film was no higher than strong.

Films classified **MA 15+** are considered unsuitable for persons under 15 years of age. It is a legally restricted category. Consumer advice is additional information about the main content of a film which is intended to help consumers decide if they want to view this type of material.

The Classification Review Board convened today in response to an application from the original applicant, Roadshow Films to review the decision made by the Classification Board on 17 August 2016 to classify *Blair Witch* **MA 15+** with the consumer advice 'Strong supernatural themes'.

In reviewing the classification, the Classification Review Board worked within the framework of the National Classification Scheme, applying the provisions of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*, the National Classification Code and the *Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games*. This is the same framework used by the Classification Board.

The Classification Review Board is an independent merits review body. It makes a fresh classification decision upon receipt of an application for review. This Classification Review Board decision takes the place of the original decision made by the Classification Board.

The Classification Review Board's reasons for this decision will appear on the Classification website when finalised.

Statement authorised by Fiona Jolly, Acting Convenor, Classification Review Board.