

# A risky Business

Safety and the environment



# Safety



- WHS we all know this,
- Joe Blow knows what he has to do,
- Pre starts, forms, risk assessments are all ingrained,
- No works starts till some sort of safety assessment has been done.

# WHY?

- Why is it that we don't think about harm to the environment (not in “tree hugging” terms),
- Why is it so hard to think before we act?,
- Why is it not like safety?

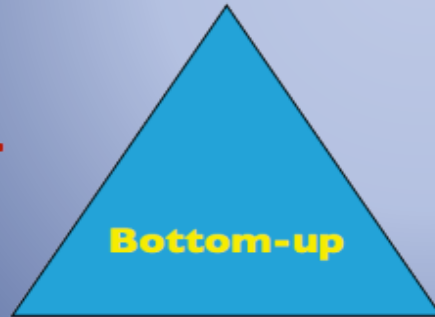


# How?

- Culture needs to change, and
- Change occurs from top down and bottom up



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# And this is why!

“The best preparation  
for good  
work tomorrow  
is to do good  
work today.”

Elbert Hubbard

# Case Law #1

- Council was successfully prosecuted for willingly destroying protected vegetation during routine works,
- Council cost \$274,000, and
- Council project officer cost \$231,00.



# CASE LAW



# Case Law #2

- Council was addressing a dangerous bridge issue and were responding to the issue swiftly, however in the swiftness of their response failed to properly assess the environmental risk,
- Council cost \$24,950, and
- Council was ordered to publicize details of the offence in the Canberra Times and the Summit Sun.



# Example

- This is a potential breach of POEO Act 1997, and
- Dirty water running off site.







STOKKS

# Example

- Dirty water running into farmers dam,
- The dam flows into a river that is an EEC, and
- Months later dam wall fails.



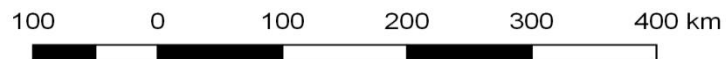
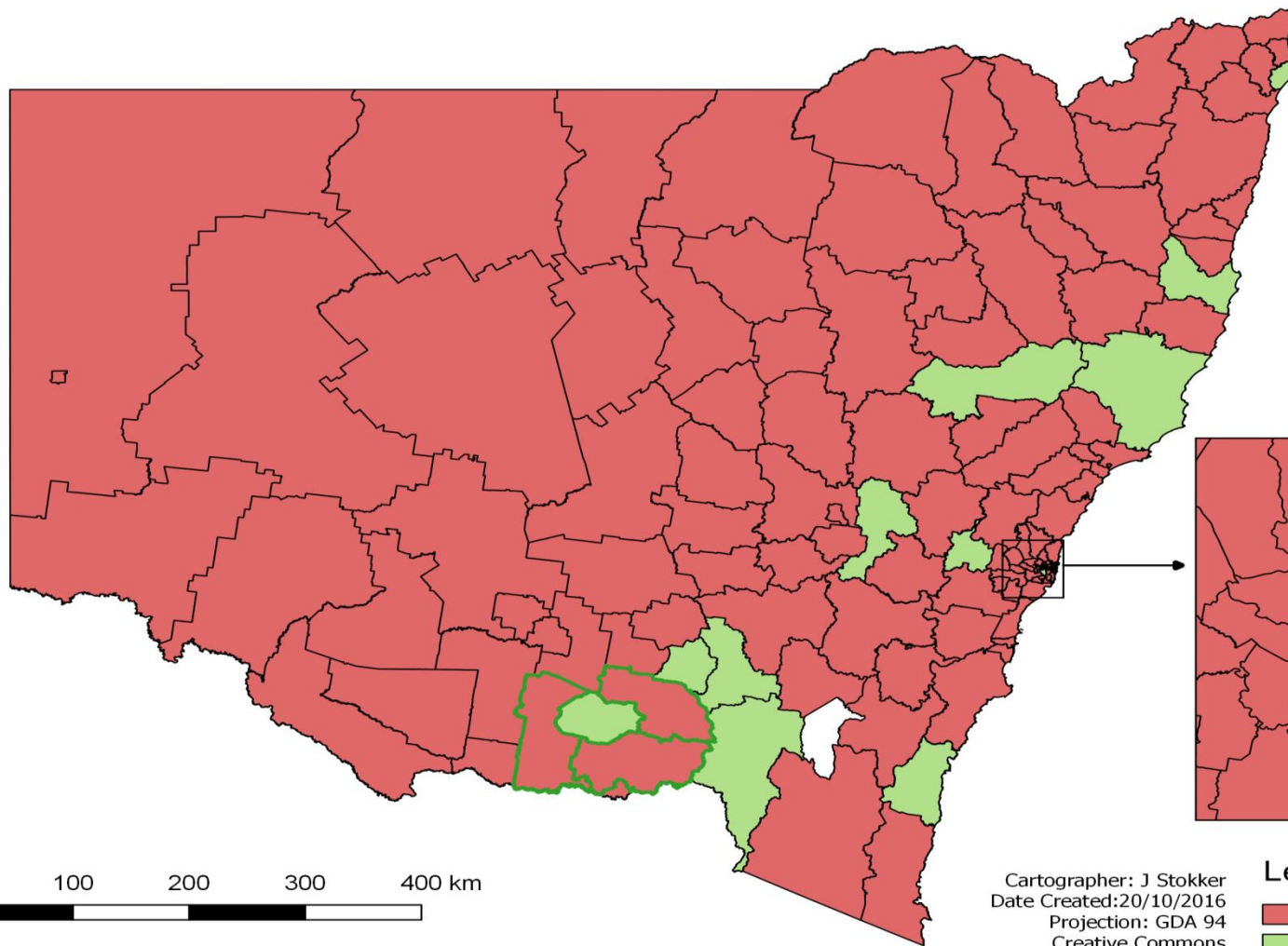




# The survey

- “How do you know where you want to be if you don’t know where you are”?,
- How to help?.... The survey, and
- Why .....to gain overview on the situation.





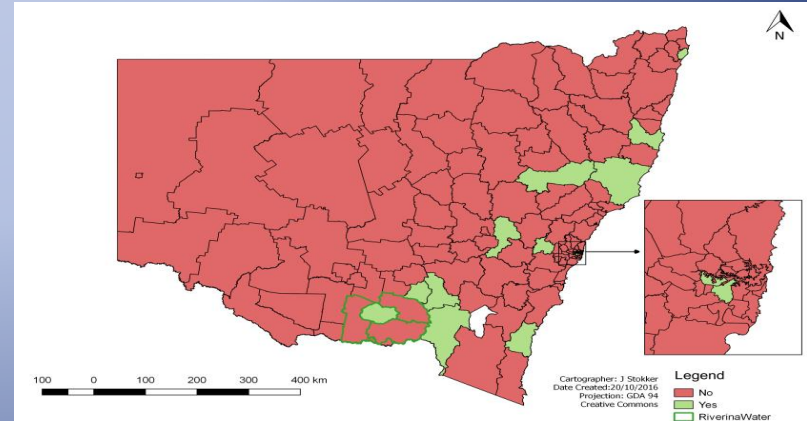
Cartographer: J Stokker  
Date Created: 20/10/2016  
Projection: GDA 94  
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### Legend

- No
- Yes
- RiverinaWater

# The survey

- 17% of Council's in the state undertook the survey,
- 15 Council completed survey and Riverina Water ,
- One council has been excluded from the map, and
- One council submitted two surveys.





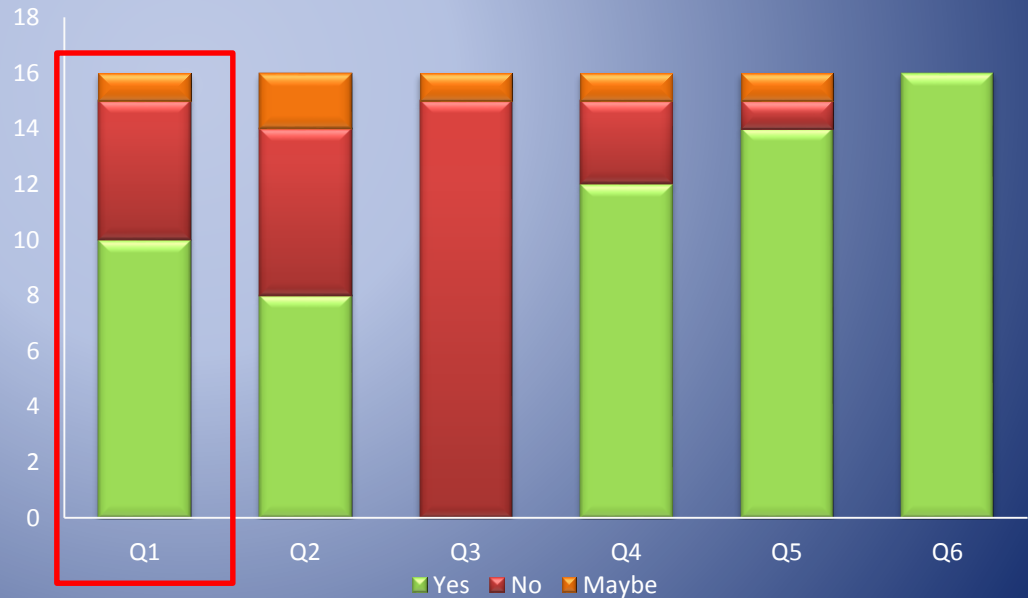
# The survey

Q1 - When you are undertaking low impact works do you use any streamlined assessment methods?

Yes – 10

No – 5

Maybe - 1



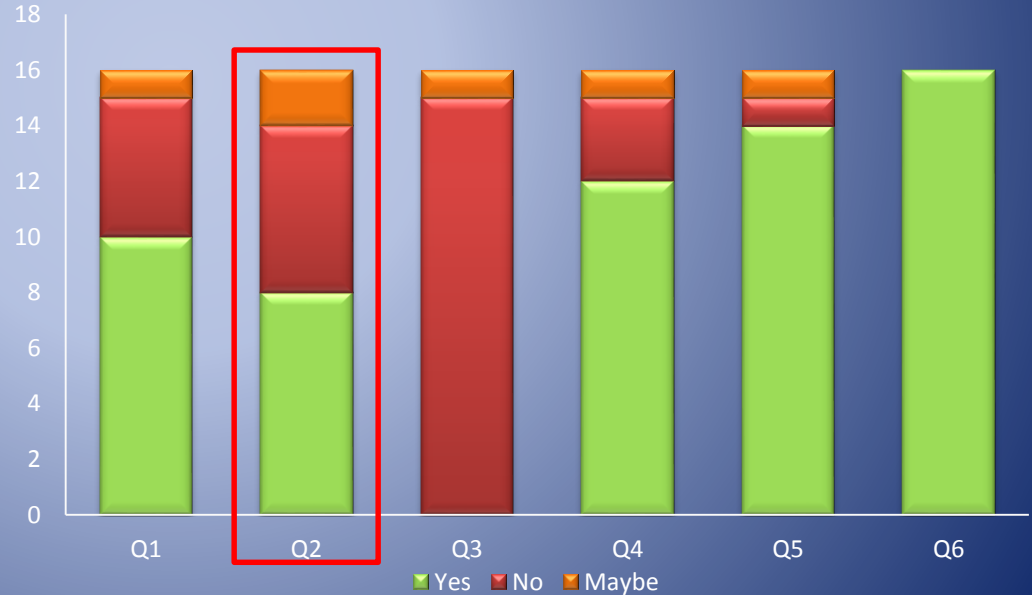
# The survey

Q2 -If yes could you please send through a copy of the form?

Yes – 8

No – 6

Maybe - 2



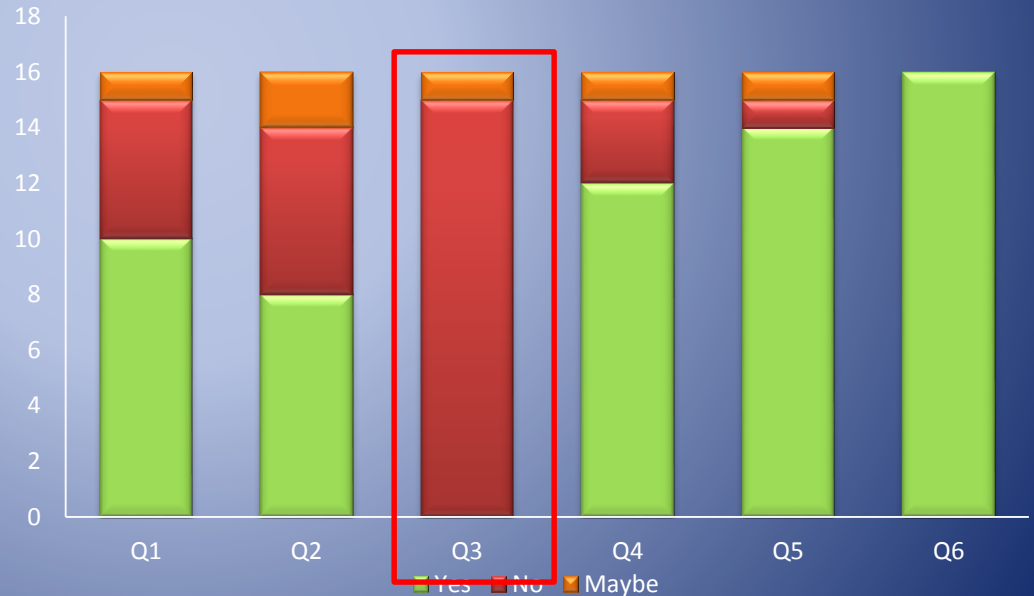
# The survey

Q3 - Do you always use a consultant regardless of potential level of impact?

Yes – 0

No – 15

Maybe - 1



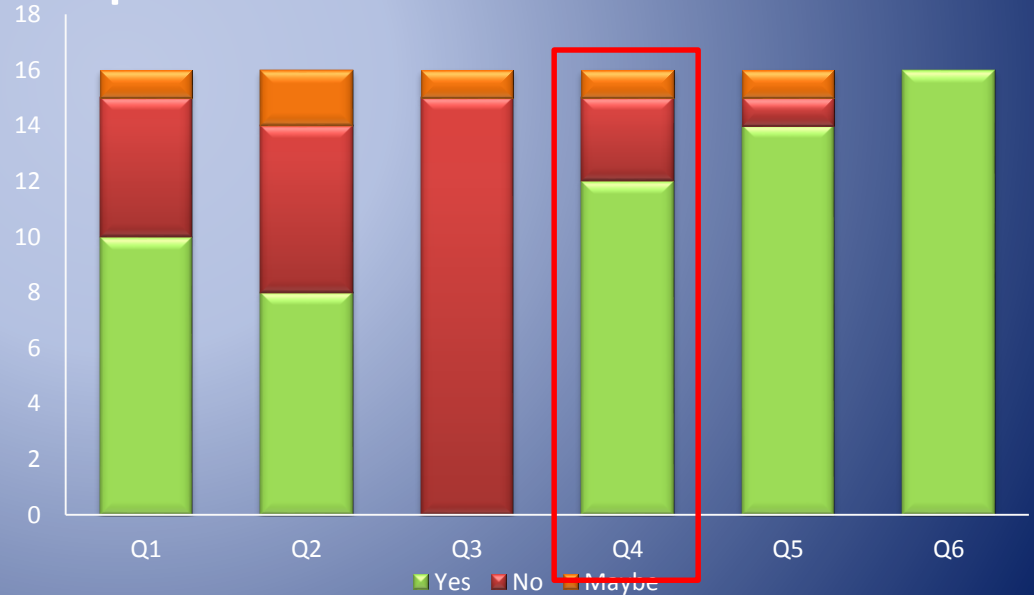
# The survey

Q4 - Do you have any administration or technical specialists trained and competent to perform Part 5 assessment for low impact activities?

Yes – 12

No – 3

Maybe - 1



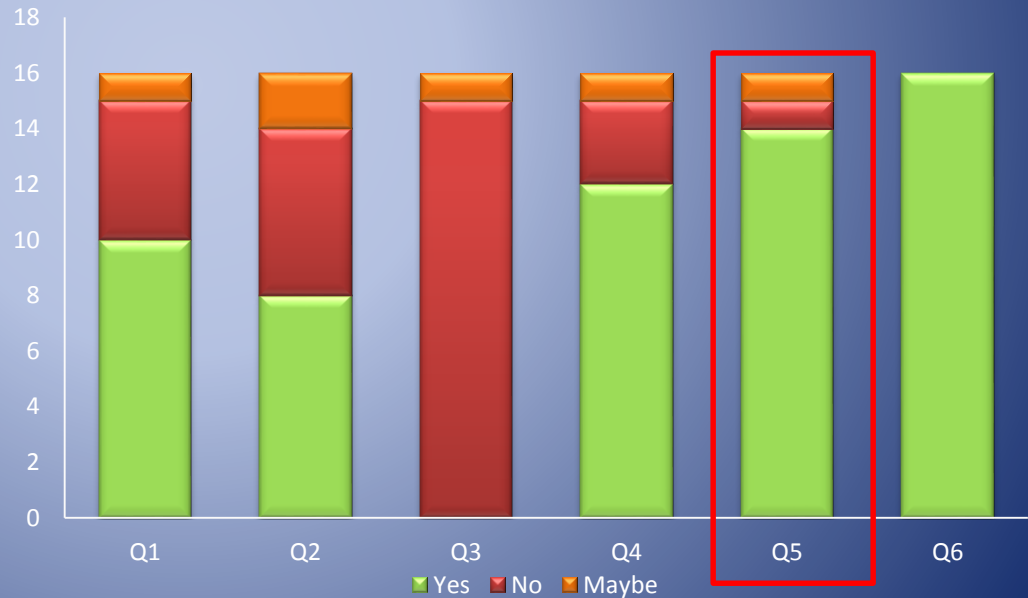
# The survey

Q5 - If you do hire a suitably qualified consultant, do you request a more detailed report?

Yes – 14

No – 1

Maybe - 1



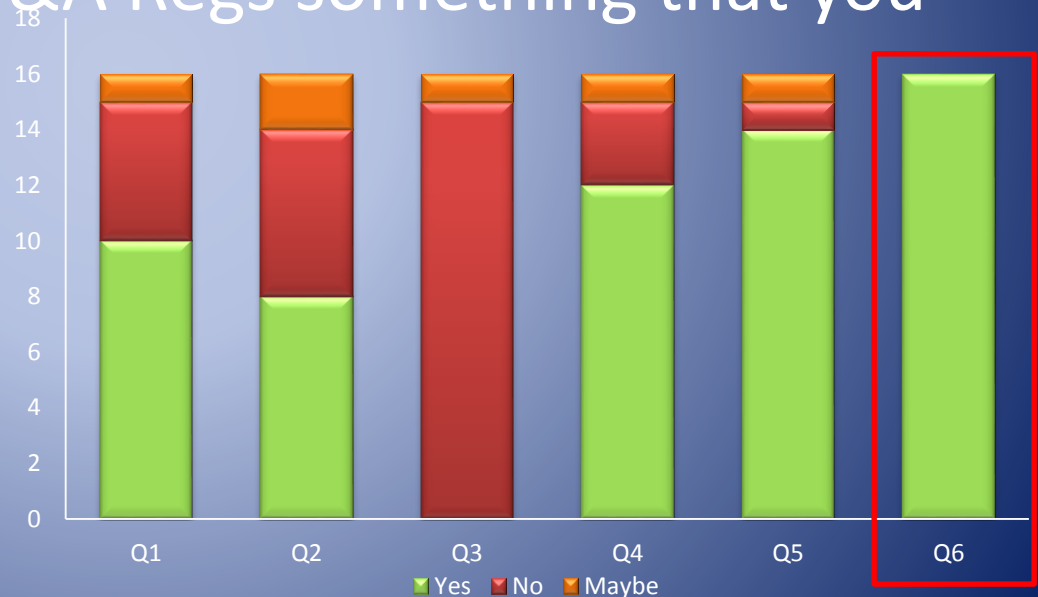
# The survey

Q6 - Is a standardised check sheet that addresses all your statutory obligations under s.111 of the EP&A Act and Cl.228 of the EP&A Regs something that you would be interested in?

Yes – 16

No – 0

Maybe - 0





# The survey

The survey shows that:

- There are more persons that are qualified to undertake a streamlined low impact assessment than are actually undertaking the assessments.
- See Compare “yes” Q 1 (10) and Q4(12)



# The survey

- All respondents wish to have standard templates and resources,
- Strong desire for JO (Joint Organisation) or ROC (Regional Organisation of Council) to assist or enable.



# What can you do!

Think about the environment:

- When you are planning works
- When you are designing works
- When you are undertaking works
- And report on those great achievements!



What is the meaning of pollution?

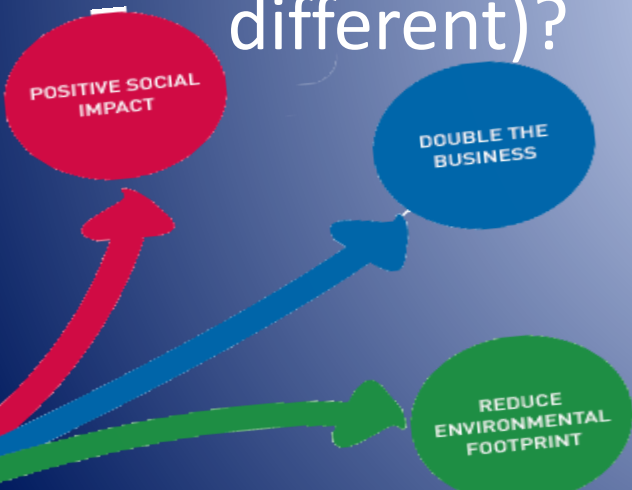


It means change in environment resources and this change causes birds, animals and human diseases.

# What can you do!

When you are planning works:

- Is there vegetation to be removed?
- Is there soil to be removed (yes these two are different)?
- Is there something you can do in planning that will limit impacts?



# What can you do!

When you are designing works:

- Can you stage your works?
- Can you undertake the works at the optimal time of year?
- Can you design in mitigation measures?



# What can you do!

When you are undertaking works:

- Is the project officer reporting on the environmental constraints?
- Are the workers adhering to the environmental constraints?





# What can you do!

And report on those great achievements!

- Council doesn't promote itself well, let the public know that you are doing a good job and reducing your risk and helping the environment.



# Tips

- It is far more financially viable to undertake all assessments at the one time
- If you are constructing a bridge or doing bridge work if the stream order is three or above YOU NEED a PERMIT!



# Tips

- Flora and Fauna atlas must be updated every three months
- Don't act and think you will be protected under one legislation as there may be another one that trumps it.



# Into the future

- Training for your Field staff will save you time, money and potentially reduce litigation!!!



# Into the future

## ENVIRONMENTAL INDUCTION TRAINING

### Objectives:

- Personal benefits of a better-protected local environment, including quality of life (health and lifestyle) and a better future for children
- The legal responsibility of every individual at all levels in an organisation to ensure the environment is protected
- The increasing community expectation for better-protected local environments
- Council's response to that increase in community expectations
- How their work has the potential to impact on the quality of life of the community, plant and animal communities, air quality, water quality and soil
- Understand Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH)
- Basic steps you need to take in order to minimise those impacts.

### Deliverables:

- Understand and acknowledge the potential environmental impact of their work
- Know what they need to do in order to minimise that impact
- Understand and acknowledge their community, organisational and legal environmental responsibilities
- Understand what they need to do in order to ensure they meet their environmental responsibilities

- Know how to identify environmental risks at their job sites and what to do to minimise those risks
- Know who the appropriate regulatory authority (ARA) is for their job sites and how to respond to a site visit from a representative of the ARA
- Understand and acknowledge the need for an ongoing internal environmental review program.





# Into the future

- Software such as Easy EIA, automate components of Part 5 Assessments,
- Reduce processing time by approx 300%\*





# Safety and the environment

Thank you!

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