

Attachment A

Engagement Report

Engagement report – Proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions



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Overview

Background

The City reviewed alcohol restrictions to identify which have broad community support and should be kept, and which can be lifted. A place-based approach to alcohol management had community support, considering restrictions alongside harm reduction strategies. Council endorsed the review's outcomes in June 2024, alongside setting criteria for restrictions based on:

- locations with significant incidents of alcohol-related assault
- areas of concern identified in the review
- applications from residents and businesses for new alcohol restrictions

There are 428 alcohol restrictions active in the City of Sydney, expiring on 20 August 2024. Based on the criteria, the number of alcohol-free zones and alcohol prohibited areas proposed for establishment in the local area for public exhibition was reduced to 236.

Alcohol-free zones apply to public roads and footpaths, 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Alcohol-prohibited areas apply to parks and civic spaces and can be timed.

This report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings from the consultation.

Engagement summary

From 27 June to 29 July 2024, we asked the community for feedback on proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions, including perspectives on timed restrictions.

To make the opportunity to give feedback as accessible as possible, we presented the proposed zones as a map on the Sydney Your Say page and as a corresponding list in the online survey. Community members could view a list of proposed zones in each precinct, nominate if they support, do not support or support with a change of time for each zone. They could provide a reason for their choice in their own words.

Feedback was gathered through Sydney Your Say, via email submissions and in person.

The Sydney Your Say survey listed all locations by suburb and residents could tick boxes for their corresponding answers (support/oppose/support with time change) or could simply type in their answers if they preferred. Community were also given to option to include reasons for their decisions.

Posters were placed in community centres and libraries directing people to the consultation.

In addition, in person consultation was conducted at community events in Waterloo.

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- gather feedback from community members and organisations on their level of support for the proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions
- determine if community members and organisations support timed restrictions

Outcomes of engagement

Submissions received during June/July 2024 consultation

We received a total of 162 submissions via surveys (148) and email (14) during the public consultation period.

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 989 times during the consultation period.

Five submissions were made on behalf of local community groups/organisations, as listed below.

- Anti-Discrimination New South Wales
- Redfern Legal Centre
- Counterpoint Community Services
- NSW Alcohol and Drug Foundation
- NSW Police

Submissions and engagement activity

Quantity	Description of activity
162	Total submissions received
148	Survey submissions
9	Emailed submissions received from community groups / residents
5	Emailed submissions from community organisations
989	Sydney Your Say webpage visits
255	Document downloads

Key findings

Overview of key findings from June/July 2024 consultation

During the consultation period we received 162 submissions via Survey Monkey (148) and email (14). These submissions are included together in the summaries below.

Of the 162 submissions:

- 54 people provided comments on why they support restrictions
- 31 people provided comments on why they oppose restrictions
- 21 people provided comment on changing the timing of the current restrictions
- 11 people requested new restrictions

There was majority support for the 236 proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions, however, the number of responses collected per area is not enough to confirm community sentiment on specific zones.

Support for alcohol restrictions

Those who provided rationale for supporting outdoor alcohol restrictions (54 submissions) typically focussed on individual areas within their suburbs.

The key reasons people gave for supporting restrictions were:

- Concerns about anti-social behaviour in specific locations (11 submissions)
 - Concerns regarding feelings for personal safety if people are allowed to drink on the street (6 submissions)
 - General support for restrictions (5 submissions)
 - Concerns about noise created by people drinking on streets and in parks (5)
-

Opposition to alcohol restrictions

Those who provided rationale for opposing outdoor alcohol restrictions (31 submissions) typically opposed the overall concept and not individual areas. The main take aways from their comments about the alcohol restrictions were:

- Oppose restrictions in general and believe the enjoyment of alcohol fosters a vibrant community atmosphere (7 submissions)
 - Support responsible alcohol consumption (5 submissions)
 - Believe alcohol restrictions unfairly target the most vulnerable members of our community (4 submissions)
 - Newtown was the only area in the City where the majority of survey respondents opposed the proposed restrictions.
-

Changes to timed restrictions

Community was invited to provide feedback on timed restrictions. Of the 12 people who provided additional comments on changing 24/7 restrictions to timed, some reasons given were:

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- Believe the enjoyment of alcohol fosters a vibrant community atmosphere
- Concerned that restrictions are not an effective way to address anti-social behaviour
- Concerned the restrictions negatively impact businesses and nightlife

Of the 9 people who provided comments on changing timed restrictions to 24/7, some reasons given were:

- Concerns about safety and anti-social behaviour
- Concerns about noise created by people drinking on the street
- Belief that alcohol consumption should only happen in licenced premises.

Submissions table

The comments in the table below included feedback provided through Survey Monkey, email submissions and face to face engagement during the consultation period. All authors of submissions that suggest locations for alcohol restrictions not recommended in this report will be invited to submit applications for alcohol restrictions that can be considered in future rounds.

Theme/issue raised	Total	Response
<i>Summarise issue raised</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>The City's response to the issue</i>
General comments in support of alcohol restrictions		
General concerns related to anti-social behaviour and public safety	17	Noted.
Support all proposed alcohol restrictions	5	Noted
Concerns about noise created by street drinking	5	Police will retain powers to deal with offensive behaviour in public places.
Locations should be established where people can drink outside	5	The City will continue to work with state government to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve community health and safety.
Support timed restrictions in all commercial areas	1	Noted
More signage should be installed in restricted areas to make it clearer to people using them	1	Signage will be subject to auditing and updates.
Alcohol consumption should be limited to licenced premises	1	Noted. Equity for people who cannot afford to drink alcohol in liquor licensed venues has been identified as an issue through the review and public exhibition process.
General comments in opposition to alcohol restrictions		
Oppose restrictions in general and believe the enjoyment of alcohol fosters a vibrant community atmosphere	7	Noted.
Support responsible alcohol consumption	5	Noted
Oppose restrictions/timed restrictions as they target vulnerable populations	4	The City will continue to advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve community health and safety.

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Theme/issue raised	Total	Response
Better effort should be put into addressing why people are drinking rather than imposing restrictions such as community outreach and harm reduction strategies	3	The City will continue to advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve community health and safety.
Police only use the restrictions to fine people and raise revenue	2	There are no fines for drinking alcohol in an alcohol prohibited area or alcohol-free zone. These restrictions provide NSW Police with the power to confiscate alcohol.
Restrictions prevent diverse use of outdoor spaces	1	Noted
Oppose all restrictions in Redfern and Waterloo due to targeting of community	1	The City will continue to advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to work with social housing residents and people who drink alcohol in public places to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve community health and safety.
Authorities should be given further legal powers to deal with anti-social behaviour and not target drinkers who are not causing an issue	1	The City will continue to advocate to the state government to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve community health and safety.
Site specific comments on alcohol restrictions		
Support for Timed Restrictions on Waterloo Green	7	The City will continue to advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to work with social housing residents and people who drink alcohol in public places to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve community health and safety.
Harm minimisation approach needed to manage alcohol consumption on Waterloo Green	7	The City will continue to advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to work with social housing residents and people who drink alcohol in public places to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve the community's health and safety.
Support for current alcohol restrictions which do not permit alcohol consumption in Waterloo	5	Noted.

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Theme/issue raised	Total	Response
Concerns removal of restrictions on Glebe Foreshore will lead to anti-social behaviour	4	Applications for reinstatement of alcohol restrictions can be submitted for consideration for future rounds. The City will continue to work with NSW Police and community to manage alcohol-related antisocial behaviour.
Request Alcohol Prohibited Areas in all local parks in Redfern	3	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Alcohol restrictions on Waterloo Green disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	2	The City will continue to work with local residents and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to co-design person-centred approaches to address alcohol-related harm alongside NSW Health and Homes NSW.
On Waterloo Green Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities felt it was a safe space for drinking.	2	The City will continue to advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to develop holistic approaches to community safety.
Do not support the removal of any restrictions in the Redfern/Waterloo area	1	The City will continue to advocate to NSW Health and Homes NSW to work with social housing residents and people who drink alcohol in public places to develop and implement harm minimisation measures that improve community health and safety.
Remove restrictions from all Place Management NSW sites	1	Sites have been removed
Restrictions should be eased in Prince Alfred Park so it can be used by more people for a wider variety of activities	1	There is evidence of a higher than normal level of alcohol related assault in the area and it is recommended for renewal.
All of Potts Point and Woolloomooloo should have restrictions applied	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Support for restrictions in Watkins Street and Buckland Lane, Newtown due to rubbish and noise related issues	1	Noted, feedback is considered alongside criteria such as levels of alcohol-related assault
Support for restrictions in Towns Place, Millers Point due to anti-social behaviour of party boat patrons using the jetty	1	The jetty is not managed by the City. Towns Place is not currently impacted by higher than normal levels of alcohol-related assault.
Support for restrictions along Bayswater Road due to anti-social behaviour	1	Bayswater Road is recommended for establishment.

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Theme/issue raised	Total	Response
Hickson Road, Millers Point should be changed to apply all year and not just on New Years Eve.	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Request for new restrictions		
Implement outdoor alcohol restrictions in the whole Kings Cross area	2	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Hannam Street, Darlinghurst	2	All locations require a valid application. Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Cook Street, Glebe	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Blackwattle Bay Park, Glebe	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Sims Street, Darlinghurst	1	All locations require a valid application. Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Flemings Lane, Darlinghurst	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Jones Bay Road, Pyrmont	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Darling Island Road, Pyrmont	1	This site is not under the authority of the City.
Sturt Street, Darlinghurst	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Caldwell Street, Darlinghurst (including Nimrod Street Rest Area)	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Chisolm Street Reserve, Darlinghurst	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
All streets surrounding The Star Casino, Pyrmont	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
Around the war memorial in Newtown (Corner King and Newman streets)	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.
During match times surrounding the Moore Park stadiums	1	Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.

Submissions from community groups/organisations

Anti-Discrimination New South Wales (ADNSW)

The ADNSW had no objections to the proposed restrictions providing the City contacted local Police and service providers, published the proposed zones and had written to relevant interested parties as required by the Ministerial Guidelines on the Establishment of Alcohol-Free Zones.

Response: Noted. The public exhibition process adhered to the requirements set out in the NSW Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol-free Zones 2009.

Redfern Legal Centre

Redfern Legal Centre would like to see restrictions in areas with high First Nations populations, including Redfern, Woolloomooloo and Surry Hills, timed and reduced. Alcohol-free zones should coexist with support for people experiencing homelessness, mental health and harm reduction services. Redfern Legal Centre expressed that on their own the restrictions disproportionately affect groups that cannot afford to drink inside liquor licenced venues: young adults, people on low-income or no income and experiencing homelessness.

Redfern Legal Centre supports strategies to improve community safety and reduce alcohol-related violence. They would like to see a more holistic approach to the issue and expressed concern about the impact of restrictions on those already living in vulnerable circumstances.

Response: The City will continue to work with community legal centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, community groups, social housing residents, local business and NSW Government agencies to determine appropriate strategies for managing alcohol consumption in the public domain.

NSW Alcohol and Drug Foundation

The NSW Alcohol and Drug Foundation is supportive of the proposed restrictions on alcohol consumption in public spaces to minimise the significant public health impacts of alcohol use in NSW. They are supportive of the restrictions not including associated fines, as they believe this approach may lead to individuals at greater risk of contact with police experiencing financial harms.

Response: Noted.

NSW Police Force

The NSW Police Force support all proposed locations for outdoor alcohol restrictions, however, they hold concern about the reduction of proposed sites.

NSW Police state the reduction of sites has the potential to impact public safety and neighbourhood amenity resulting in an increase in alcohol-related crime and alcohol-related harms because of unmonitored consumption of alcohol.

NSW Police raised concern that a significant number of children's playgrounds will not be renewed. They believe this has the potential to increase the risk of harm to children, particularly through the waste and broken glass that is left behind by the people consuming within these areas.

Police also hold concerns about an increase in the instance of "preloading" due to the proposed reduced Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions in those locations.

They do not support the City's decision to reduce temporary alcohol restrictions for events, including those for Mardi Gras and New Years Eve and believe it has the potential to result in alcohol related harm. Response: Applications can be submitted for consideration in future rounds.

Counterpoint

Counterpoint support retention of all alcohol restrictions and oppose further reductions.

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Supports a city-wide ban on alcohol consumption within public spaces, balanced with well-planned designated areas to address the issue effectively.

A city-wide approach assures all residents an equality-based approach, eradicating possible discrimination. This should be done while balancing accessible choice, community safety, health, and well-being and promoting responsible, safe consumption.

Counterpoint believes this recent proposal to reduce alcohol-free zones lacks evidence-based substance and contradicts the previous consultations' submissions and subsequent independent reports.

They do not support the City's proposal to eliminate restrictions in more affluent areas of the city while maintaining them in disadvantaged areas. They believe this will lead to discrimination.

Response: The City will continue to work with community legal centres, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, community groups, social housing residents, local business and NSW Government agencies to determine appropriate strategies for managing alcohol consumption in the public domain.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement undertaken

Summarise all activities that took place during the consultation period

Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage (<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/public-notice/your-feedback-proposed-outdoor-alcohol-restrictions>) was created to facilitate this consultation. The page included a map of all proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions, survey and other key information about the consultation.

Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

Sydney Your Say e-news

The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say e-newsletters in June 2024 which was sent to 6650 subscribers.

Consultation letter

A letter was posted to all liquor licensees in the LGA, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 2332 letters were distributed.

Face to face discussion

In person consultation was conducted at community events in Waterloo.

On-site signage

Posters were displayed inviting people to give feedback on the proposal at the following locations:

- Harry Jensen/ Abraham Mott Centre
- East Sydney Community and Arts Centre
- Darlinghurst Community Space
- Glebe Town Hall notice board
- Waterloo Neighbourhood Centre

Stakeholder emails

Emails were sent to 551 people and organisations on the City's outdoor alcohol restrictions. Stakeholders were invited to give feedback on the proposed locations. The emails were sent to:

Stakeholder type	Number of stakeholders contacted
People who commented on the earlier AFZ review	275
Aboriginal community-controlled organisations	41
Homelessness sector	29

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Health services	30
Legal services	17
Women's advocacy groups	19
LGBTIQA organisations	22
Social housing community organisations	7
Previous applicants	31
Social housing neighbourhood advisory boards	80

Appendices

Appendix A - Sydney Your Say webpage

Your feedback on proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions

Help us maintain well-designed, safe and attractive public spaces.



Open for feedback

We invite your feedback on this proposal.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD

27 June 2024 to 29 July 2024

What we're doing

We invite your feedback on proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions for the [City of Sydney's local area](#).

These sites are proposed to manage and reduce antisocial behaviour and related impacts.

Alcohol-free zones apply to public roads and footpaths and are 24 hour restrictions. Alcohol-prohibited areas apply to parks and civic spaces and are timed, typically 10pm to 10am.

We're advocating for timed alcohol-free zones through the Office of Local Government. Your insights on when alcohol-related issues occur and your recommendations for whether restrictions should be in place at all times or only overnight are welcome.

In early 2024, we reviewed alcohol restrictions to identify which have broad community support and should be kept, and which can be lifted. A place-based approach to alcohol management had community support, considering restrictions alongside harm reduction strategies. Council endorsed the review's outcomes in [June 2024](#), setting criteria for restrictions based on:

- locations with high incidents of alcohol-related crimes
- areas of concern identified in the review
- applications from residents and businesses for new alcohol-free zones.

Based on the criteria, please view a list of the proposed restrictions below.

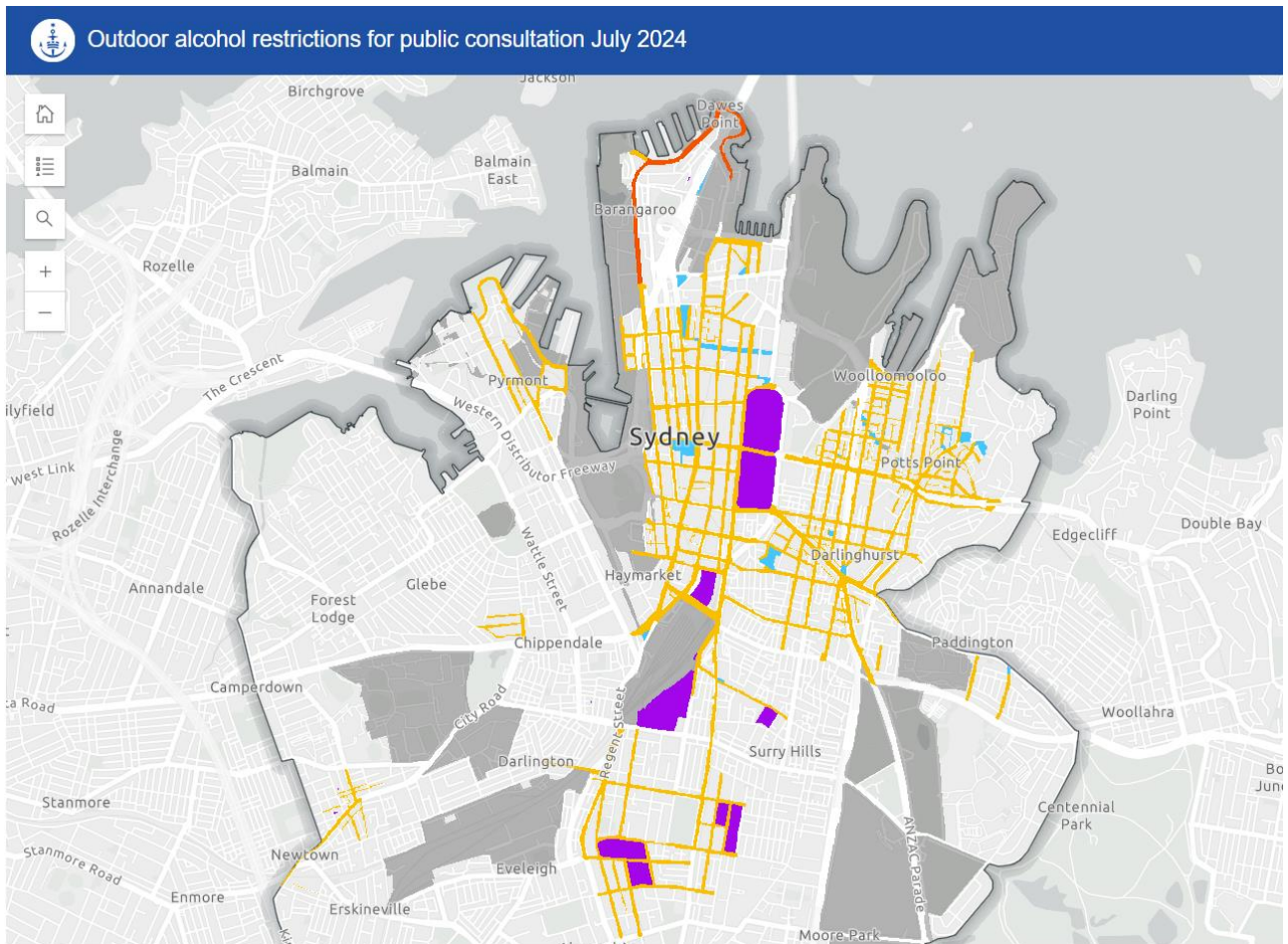
Senior Project Manager

City Engagement

✉ sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney...

COPY EMAIL ADDRESS

Appendix C – Online map of proposed restrictions



Appendix C – Sydney Your Say EDM



Your feedback on proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions

Have your say on proposed outdoor alcohol restrictions for sites in our area. A place-based approach to alcohol management had community support and these sites are proposed to manage and reduce antisocial behaviour and related impacts.

We advocate for timed alcohol-free zones to the Office of Local Government. Your insights about when alcohol-related issues occur and recommendations for restrictions are welcome.

Consultation closes Monday 29 July.

[Read more](#)

Appendix D – Consultation letter to licensees



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Sydney NSW 2000

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council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
GPO Box 1591 Sydney NSW 2001
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

25 June 2024

Our Ref: 2024/364780

Outdoor Alcohol Restrictions

Dear Operator,

In accordance with the *NSW Ministerial Guidelines on Alcohol Free Zones 2009*, the City invites your view on proposed alcohol-free zones and alcohol-prohibited areas in the local area. You can view proposed alcohol restrictions at Sydney Your Say <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations>

Please provide your submission for or against proposed alcohol restrictions by midnight Sunday 28 July 2024.

Online: Sydney Your Say
Email: safecity@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Post: Safe City Manager
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
Sydney NSW 2001

If you would like to speak to a council officer regarding proposed alcohol restrictions, please contact Rebecca Martin, Safe City Manager on 9265 9333 or safecity@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Martin
Safe City Manager

Appendix E – On-site signage

CITY OF SYDNEY 

Have your say

**Have your say on the proposed
outdoor alcohol restrictions.**

**We invite your feedback on proposed
outdoor alcohol restrictions for the
City of Sydney's local area.**

These restrictions apply to help prevent
alcohol related antisocial behaviour and
time.

Proposed sites are based on:

- locations with high incidents of
alcohol-related crimes
- areas of concern identified in the review
- applications from residents and
businesses for new alcohol-free zones.



How to give feedback

You can view a map of
proposed restrictions
and give feedback at
city.sydney/consultations
or scan the QR code.

**Consultation closes at 5pm,
Monday 29 July 2024.**

For more information, contact
02 9265 9333
sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

