

# Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

Guidelines 2026



Authorised by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

475 Mickleham Rd, Attwood, Victoria 3049

✉ [LivestockBiosecurityFund@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:LivestockBiosecurityFund@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

☎ 136186

🌐 [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds)

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

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# Part 1: Program Guidelines

## 1. What is the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program?

The Victorian Government, on the advice of the industry-led livestock advisory committees, provides grants to enhance animal health, biosecurity, and market access for the benefit of Victorian cattle, sheep, goat, swine, and honey bee industries.

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program allocates monies from these four livestock compensation funds to support programs or projects that prevent, monitor, and control diseases.

### ***The Livestock Disease Control Act 1994***

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program is administered by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and funds are established under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* (the Act).

The Act, together with the Duties Act 2000, provides a statutory arrangement for the collection of duties generated by the sale of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs and their carcasses in Victoria. These duties are collected to support the following funds:

- Cattle Compensation Fund
- Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund
- Swine Compensation Fund.

The Act also provides for the collection of registration and annual fees for honey bees which support the Honey Bee Compensation and Industry Development Fund.

The funds deliver outcomes for the four industry areas, and the use of the funds is aligned to the Act's overall purpose and objectives and consistent with the rules legislated for the expenditure of the funds collected. The overall purpose of the Act is to provide for the prevention, monitoring, and control of livestock diseases, and compensation for losses caused by certain livestock diseases. The broad objectives of the Act are to:

- protect public health by preventing, monitoring, and controlling diseases transmissible from livestock to humans
- protect domestic and export markets for livestock and livestock products by preventing, monitoring, and controlling livestock diseases
- provide for the preventing, monitoring, and eradication of exotic livestock diseases
- provide compensation for certain losses caused by livestock diseases
- facilitate the operation of livestock identification and tracking programs for disease and residue control and market access.

All expenditure from the funds require approval from the Minister for Agriculture, after considering the advice from the respective advisory committee.

The four advisory committees, comprised of members with relevant skills and experience across the industry supply chain, are:

- Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee
- Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee
- Swine Industry Projects Advisory Committee
- Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee.

Each of the funds has a statement of strategic intent, outlining areas for investment and outcomes within the purpose and objectives of the Act. Please refer to Part 2 for details.

## 2. Who can apply?

The following organisations and individuals can apply for funding:

- private sector businesses and agencies
- universities and research institutions
- cooperatives where the objectives of the cooperative align with the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program
- Victorian Government department or entity
- local government authorities
- incorporated associations.

In addition, to be eligible for funding applicants must:

- hold a valid Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be an incorporated body, cooperative or association (including business associations)
- be financially solvent
- conduct the proposed activities in Victoria
- meet all industrial relations obligations as an employer in accordance with the National Employment Standards
- agree to participate in future program evaluation activity and public communication on the project.

## 3. Who cannot apply?

The following organisations and individuals cannot apply for funding:

- individuals/sole traders
- trusts
- partnerships
- federal government departments.

## 4. What might be funded?

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds must be used for projects producing outcomes, consistent with the Act, which demonstrates the following principles:

- innovative solutions and emerging technologies for unsolved livestock biosecurity issues, needs, or gaps
- collaboration, where possible across value chains
- quantifiable benefits to the whole of the livestock industries, which are measured and evaluated with evidence and data.

Examples of previously funded projects are available on the Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program webpage.

## 5. What will not be funded?

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program will not fund the following activities:

- requests for retrospective funding
- lobbying activities
- funding an organisation's core business activities
- emergency animal disease compensation, response, or recovery
- capital expenditure
- costs for activities which do not directly align with achievement of the outcomes stipulated by each fund
- recurrent operating costs, for example rent and utility costs
- activities establishing expectations of ongoing funding
- activities located outside the State of Victoria.

## 6. What are the funding details?

### Available funds

There is no minimum or maximum value of applications or length of a project. The respective advisory committee will recommend successful projects to the Minister for Agriculture taking account of the available balance of their respective funds at the time of recommendation and the project's rating against the selection criteria.

### Co-funding contributions

There is no requirement for matched funds from applicants. However, the assessment of a grant application needs to include budget and collaboration considerations. This identifies financial and other in-kind support.

Applications that require co-funding or in-kind contributions from other organisations to deliver the proposed project must include a letter of support from those organisations. Where a project is co-funded, a signed letter from each co-funding partner confirming their support for the project is required. The letter must outline the partner's role, and rationale for their support and commitment to the project.

Project proponents may apply for funding from more than one fund. However, a separate application must be lodged to each individual fund and will be assessed against that fund's Statement of Strategic Intent.

## 7. What are the assessment criteria?

First, applications will be checked for eligibility to make sure the applicant and their activity are eligible for funding. After that, eligible applications will be assessed using the criteria listed below. Each criterion is given a percentage weighting to indicate its relative importance in the assessment process. Applications should address all relevant criteria, including how their application relates to the applicable funding stream.

DEECA may invite targeted applications when there are gaps in meeting strategic priorities. These projects must still meet the same assessment criteria and process as competitive applications.

There is no guarantee that an application will be successful in receiving funding. This includes applications seeking funding from more than one fund. Applicants applying to more than one funding stream must ensure their grant proposals can be delivered on the strategic priorities of the relevant committees.

Applications are assessed fairly and competitively. An independent panel reviews each application and prepares a report for the relevant advisory committee. The committee then makes recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture who decides whether to approve the application.

An independent probity advisor is appointed to make sure the grant program is run fairly and transparently. Their role is to provide expert oversight and manage any conflicts of interest during the assessment process.

### A. Quality of project proposal - 30%

Assessed on:

- how well the proposed project will deliver its activities
- the anticipated impact of the project on industry beneficiaries
- the suitability and level of innovation in the proposed solution for addressing the identified problem.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- the specific issue or problem the project will address
- the proposed solution, including the methodology and supporting evidence that shows why this approach is most effective or likely to succeed
- how risks will be identified and managed throughout the project.

### B. Project Impact - 30%

Assessed on:

- how the proposed project outcomes align to the program objectives and strategic intent identified by the livestock advisory committee (refer to Part 2: Statement of Strategic Intent).

Applicants must demonstrate:

- quantifiable impacts that will benefit the relevant industry
- how the project will be measured and evaluated
- how the project outcomes will be communicated and delivered to industry stakeholders to support adoption of the information, knowledge and/or technology developed.

### C. Organisational Capability and Capacity – 20%

Assessed on:

- the organisation's knowledge of the industry and delivery of similar projects
- suitability of resourcing allocated to the project.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- sufficient project resourcing
- relevant experience of key staff allocated to the project
- how staff will collaborate with a range of partners to undertake the project.

### D. Need for expenditure from the funds – 20%

Assessed on:

- the urgency and significance of the problem the project seeks to address
- whether the project fills a genuine gap in existing solutions, avoiding duplication of current services or activities
- the likelihood of the project proceeding without funding support, including the impact on timing and access to necessary resources
- whether the proposed initiative is more appropriately delivered through another government funding program.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- the scale of the problem being addressed, percentage of industry affected and monetary impact on industry or potential threat to industry
- why the project solves an urgent need that addresses the objectives and outcomes of the fund
- how any timing pressures and/or dependencies may affect the project.

## 8. What supporting documents will need to be provided?

Please submit the following documents with your application:

- detailed budget
- milestone summary
- detailed biographies or CVs for key project members and deliver partners
- supporting evidence by way of a formal letter committing any co-funding and/or in-kind contributions from an external organization
- supporting evidence or other letters of support
- detailed evaluation plan outlining the impact on the specified Victorian sector that considers the time, budget, and resources to complete a Post Completion Evaluation. It is preferable that an independent evaluation is conducted where possible and appropriate for the type and scale of the project or program. Please consider this when developing the budget.

### Submission requirements for previously funded projects

If you are proposing a project that has previously received funding, you must include with your application an evaluation of that project which is reflective of its scope and scale.

At a minimum, the evaluation report should demonstrate how the outcomes of the previous funded project align with the objectives of the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program. It should also show how those benefits have been realised by industry.

### Financial, probity and reputational checks

If the applicant is a company, DEECA may undertake probity checks to identify if there are any actions, claims or disputes with any of the directors, whether any of the directors have been disqualified from acting as a director, or whether there are any adverse findings against the applicant.

Private sector and not-for-profit applicants requesting funding of over \$50,000 may be required to provide financial information to enable a financial risk assessment to be completed:

- Audited financial reports for the last three financial years. This should be the 'final accounts' with Director's Report and Declaration and should include:
  - profit and loss statement
  - balance sheet
  - cash flows
  - notes to the accounts.
- If the latest financial report is more than six months old:
  - up-to-date management or interim accounts for the current year including profit and loss statement and balance sheet
  - in case of public listed corporations, half yearly financial report.

Any of these checks may be taken into consideration prior to awarding the grant. Required information will be requested as needed.



## 9. What are the funding conditions?

### Funding agreements

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Actions (DEECA). The Victorian Common Funding Agreement is used for funding agreements with not-for-profit organisations and Local Government Authorities.

It is recommended that applicants review the terms and conditions before applying. Information about the Victorian Common Funding Agreement is available on [www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement](http://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement).

The DEECA Transfer Payment Funding Agreement is used for Victorian public entities, as defined under section 5 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*. A memorandum of understanding will be used for Victorian Government departments.

Milestone deliverables and dates are finalised as a part of the funding agreement negotiations with the successful applicants, after the approval by the Minister for Agriculture.

### Legislative and regulatory requirements

In delivering the activity grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislations and regulations, including but not limited to:

- *The Privacy Act 1988* (Commonwealth)
- *The Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic)
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic)
- *The Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* (Vic).

The Local Jobs First Policy (LJF) applies to all grants awarded under this program valued at \$1 million or over in regional Victoria, or \$3 million or over in metropolitan Melbourne and state-wide activities.

For further information, go to the [Local Jobs First website](#).

### Acknowledging the Victorian Government's support

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the Victorian Government's funding support as well as the support of the relevant fund. This will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with the Livestock Biosecurity Funds team to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project. Promotional guidelines are available at <https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/grants>.

### Payments

Payments will be made as long as:

- the funding agreement has been signed by both parties
- grant recipients provide reports as required, or otherwise demonstrate that the activity is progressing as expected
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met.

Applicants will need to meet the cost of any ineligible expenditure associated with their project.

Projects that are completed for less than the expected budget will be paid on a pro rata basis.

### Monitoring and reporting

Grant recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. This may include progress reports, completion reports and acquittal documentation.

All funded projects will be publicly listed in an annual report which is published on Agriculture Victoria's website.

### Privacy

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities. This may include disclosure to contracted service providers engaged by DEECA to undertake financial risk assessments on DEECA's behalf as required by the program guidelines.

If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed, or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and other applicable laws.

DEECA is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find the DEECA Privacy Policy online at [www.deeca.vic.gov.au/privacy](http://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/privacy).

Requests for access or correct information about you held by DEECA should be sent to the **Information Access Unit**, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by emailing [Foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:Foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au).

### Commercially sensitive information

If an applicant wishes to provide information that it regards as commercially sensitive, it should nominate that information as being commercially sensitive.

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program, and any person engaging with applicants, will respect all reasonable nominations and maintain security and information handling procedures appropriate to the nature, content and volume of the information provided.

### Post Project Evaluation

As a condition of funding, recipients will be required to participate in an evaluation of the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program.

## 10. What is the application process?

Applications are submitted online using the Grants Online portal.

To apply, go to the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program web page [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds) and click on the 'Start New Application' button.

To return to a saved draft application, click on the 'Access Saved Application' button.

All applications must be endorsed by the organisation's authorised officer. For Victorian Government applications, this is Executive Director or equivalent.

DEECA reserves the right to request clarification if there are gaps in the information provided. Please make best efforts to respond comprehensively to the assessment criteria when making an application.

### Attaching required documents:

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG. The maximum file size for each file is 10MB.

You will receive an application number when you submit an application online. Please quote this number in all communications with DEECA relating to your application.

If you have documents to submit that cannot be attached to your online application you can email them to [LivestockBiosecurityFund@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:LivestockBiosecurityFund@agriculture.vic.gov.au), quoting your application number.

Attach all documents to one email, zipping the files if required.

**Make sure your application is submitted by 11:59pm on 14 April 2026.**

*Note: No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.*

## 11. Additional information

Additional information is available at the program web page [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds).

### Right of Amendment

DEECA reserves the right to amend the conditions and processes outlined in these guidelines where appropriate.

If you require technical assistance submitting your application online, email [grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au).

If you require subject matter assistance in completing your application, email [LivestockBiosecurityFund@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:LivestockBiosecurityFund@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

## 12. What is the notification process?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback on their application.

Details of successful grants are to remain confidential until formally announced by the Victorian Government.

### 13. Key dates

Stage	Dates
Applications Open	3 March 2026
Applications Close	14 April 2026

### 14. Checklist

Read these guidelines and the information about the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds) before applying and complete the following checklist.

#### Have you:

- Read these guidelines carefully?
- Checked if you are, or your organisation is, eligible for this grant funding?
- Checked if your activity is eligible for this grant funding?
- Checked that you would be able to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in delivery of your activity?
- Prepared the appropriate supporting documents?



# Part 2: Statement of Strategic Intent

This section outlines the Statement of Strategic Intent (SOSI) for the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program including:

- long-term goals
- medium-term goals
- shorter-term outcomes
- areas of focus.

Specific areas of focus for each fund are also articulated.

## 1. Vision and long-term program outcomes

The aim of the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program is to help prevent, monitor and control diseases in animals to enhance animal health, biosecurity, competitive advantage and market access for the benefit of Victorian cattle, sheep, goat, swine and honeybee industries.

With this vision, the program focuses on achieving long-term, strategic outcomes that strengthen Victoria's livestock industries.

Improve:	Maintain:
Animal health	Market access
Industry preparedness	Competitive advantage
Disease management	

Maintaining market access and ensuring the competitive advantage of Victorian producers in both domestic and international markets is a key priority. This involves supporting initiatives that uphold high standards of animal health and biosecurity, which are essential for meeting trade requirements and consumer expectations.

Improving animal health reduces disease prevalence, enhances treatment effectiveness, and promotes proactive health management across all sectors. Innovation in diagnostics, treatment, and disease prevention strategies are vital in achieving long-term animal health.

Enhancing biosecurity and preparedness for exotic disease outbreaks is another critical long-term outcome. The program aims to build industry resilience by investing in systems and capabilities that enable early detection, rapid response, and containment of biosecurity threats. This includes strengthening surveillance networks, traceability systems, and emergency response planning.

The program is also committed to promoting proactive disease management and reporting. This involves encouraging industry-wide engagement in monitoring and reporting practices, supporting education and training, and improving communication channels between producers, veterinarians and government.

Together, the program's vision and long-term outcomes are designed to safeguard the sustainability, productivity, and reputation of Victoria's livestock industries.

## 2. The biosecurity challenges

Persistent and emerging challenges are placing increasing pressure on the biosecurity systems and resilience of Victoria's livestock industries.

Increases in:	Are leading to:
Production intensification	A greater spread of invasive species
Climate change	Growing threats posed by disease vectors
Shifting demographics	Limited access to vaccines and treatments
Travel and trade	
Workforce gaps	

Rising biosecurity risks are being driven by demographic shifts, intensification of production systems, increased movement of people and goods through travel and trade, and the growing impacts of climate change. These factors collectively heighten the likelihood of disease outbreaks and complicate containment efforts.

The threat posed by invasive species and disease vectors continues to grow. The biological risks caused by feral animals, insects and pathogens can rapidly spread across regions, undermining livestock health and disrupting supply chains. The sector also faces limitations in access to effective vaccines and treatment options, which restricts its ability to respond rapidly to emerging diseases and maintain herd health.

A decline in industry engagement and workforce capacity is compounding the challenges. There is a noticeable shortage of skilled professionals, including veterinarians and biosecurity specialists, particularly in regional areas. This workforce gap affects the sector's ability to implement best practices, respond to biosecurity threats, and maintain continuity in disease surveillance and management.

These challenges underscore the need for strategic investment, innovation, and collaboration to safeguard the future of Victoria's livestock industries.



### 3. Medium-term goals and key areas of strategic focus

In addressing the biosecurity challenges facing Victoria, the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program has three medium-term (5-10 years) goals to strengthen outcomes for the livestock industries:

1. Victorian cattle, sheep and goat, swine and honeybee supply chains are proactively mapping biosecurity risks through a well-coordinated approach that is embedded in daily practice (**Preparedness and prevention**).
2. Livestock traceability systems are accurate, real-time, and widely used by industry and regulators. They help to manage biosecurity risks, enable rapid outbreak responses, and support surveillance compliance, and decision-making (**Traceability**).
3. Disease detection and diagnosis occur earlier and more reliably across livestock production systems (**Early detection**).

To achieve these goals, the program invests in projects that can demonstrate measurable outcomes over the shorter-term (1-5 years) in the following areas of strategic focus.

#### Areas Of Strategic Focus for Project Investment

##### Preparedness and Prevention

Build response capability and planning and reduce risks of biosecurity events

##### Traceability

Improve deployment and accuracy of identification systems

##### Early Detection

Enhance surveillance and diagnostics

##### Capability building

Education improving awareness, training and mentoring

##### Applied Research

Support adoptable approaches, novel or emerging technologies for diagnostic tools and treatments

Preparedness and prevention reduce the risk of biosecurity events and build the sector's capability to respond effectively when biosecurity threats occur. Proactive measures like improved farm hygiene, pest and disease control strategies, and risk assessments as well as emergency planning, training, and investment in infrastructure help protect livestock health, ensure rapid containment during outbreaks, and maintain supply chain resilience.

Traceability supports disease tracking, facilitates rapid response during outbreaks, and underpins consumer confidence in product safety and origin. Enhancing the deployment and accuracy of livestock identification systems improves traceability. This includes upgrading electronic identification technologies, streamlining data collection, and ensuring that movement records are complete and accessible.

Early detection focuses on strengthening surveillance systems and ensuring the integrity of biosecurity monitoring. This includes expanding diagnostic capabilities, integrating data sources for real-time analysis, and training personnel to recognise and report signs of disease promptly. Strong surveillance systems and diagnostic tools enable quicker containment of biosecurity threats and reduce the spread of disease.

Capability building and education is crucial for improving awareness and training across the livestock industries. Effective education builds knowledge among producers, veterinarians, and support staff, and promotes best practice in the management of biosecurity pests and diseases.

Applied research supports the development and implementation of innovative technologies and systems. This includes exploring new methods for disease detection, vaccine development, and treatment protocols tailored to sector-specific needs. By investing in research, the program drives continuous improvement and equips the industry with tools to address emerging biosecurity challenges.

These areas of focus form the foundation of the Livestock Biosecurity Funds grant program's strategic approach to protecting and enhancing Victoria's livestock industries.

## 4. Specific areas of focus

The livestock advisory committees invest in initiatives that aim to improve long-term biosecurity outcomes for Victoria's cattle, sheep, goat, swine, and honey bee industries as articulated above.

While the industries share many challenges, each committee articulates its own statement of strategic intent (SOSI) that outlines the key target areas of their respective industries.



### **Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee SOSI**

The Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee (CCAC) aims to strengthen Victoria's cattle industry by investing in initiatives that enhance animal health, build sector capability, and improve feedback mechanisms. In addition to the Program's broad outcomes, the committee encourages proactive measures supporting capacity building.



### **Swine Industry Projects Advisory Committee SOSI**

The Swine Industry Projects Advisory Committee (SIPAC) focuses on improved animal health, long term sustainability, and productivity of the pig industry in Victoria, and proactive approaches used to detect and manage swine disease and their impact. The committee would also welcome proposals to mitigate biosecurity risks posed by transmission risk through unplanned people and vehicle movement, feral pigs, swill feeding, and encourage continuous improvement across industry. SIPAC emphasises clear communication of outcomes in both technical and accessible formats with the aim to foster industry-wide engagement, innovation, and preparedness against disease threats.



### **Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee SOSI**

The Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee (SGCAC) is committed to addressing critical challenges such as veterinary workforce shortages and antimicrobial resistance. It supports targeted initiatives that build veterinary capability in regional Victoria, promote antimicrobial stewardship (preserving antibiotic effectiveness), and enhance traceability through improved data management. By investing in training, mentoring, and technology, the SGCAC aims to safeguard animal health, improve disease management, and ensure the resilience and competitiveness of the sheep and goat industries.



### **Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee SOSI**

The Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) is dedicated to supporting the health and sustainability of Victoria's apiculture sector. Addressing American Foul Brood is a priority, as the sole declared compensable disease. The committee is seeking to support targeted initiatives that mitigate biosecurity risks including Varroa mite, by enhancing honey bee nutrition and genetics and supporting industry resilience and beekeeper health. AIAC seeks to empower beekeepers with the knowledge and tools needed to adapt to evolving biosecurity landscapes.

