



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics



Infrastructure and Transport PPPs and Privatisation in Australia

Introduction

Up until the 1980s, Australian governments—Commonwealth, state and territory—commissioned, owned and operated much of Australia’s major infrastructure and associated service operators, including roads, railways, ports, airports, airlines, coastal shipping operators, electricity generation and distribution networks, water infrastructure, etc. Over the past three and a half decades, much of Australia’s public infrastructure and most infrastructure-related businesses have been corporatised and subsequently privatised. Moreover, there has been greater emphasis on private sector financing of public infrastructure, through Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) or similar arrangements, and private sector provision of formerly publicly-provided services (e.g. urban public transport).

Increased private sector participation in the provision and operation of infrastructure was generally justified on the basis of increased efficiency resulting from the introduction of corporate and business management practices to previously public-sector entities, and the potential for increased market competition.

As part of recent research activities, BITRE has had occasion to compile a list of transport- and infrastructure-related privatisation and public–private procurement projects over the last 30–40 years.

BITRE has identified 197 economic infrastructure and transport privatisations and PPPs completed by Australian, state and territory, and some local governments since 1980, which are listed in Table I. Several privatisations were undertaken in multiple stages, including, for example, the privatisation of Telstra and Qantas, which takes the total list in Table I to 207 entries. The list excludes assets sold solely to state-owned enterprises and non-sewage waste management services.

While BITRE has made significant effort to ensure this list is as comprehensive as possible, BITRE cannot guarantee its completeness. In particular, less visible projects at the local government level or those undertaken by government business enterprises may have been missed.

It is intended that this list will be updated periodically. Any corrections and/or additions should be sent to BITRE@infrastructure.gov.au.

Table I Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
Gateway Motorway	1980	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2051 (original end date 2010)
Logan Motorway	1987	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2051 (original end date 2018)
Sydney Harbour Tunnel	1987	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2023
Sydney Monorail	1988	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2038 (terminated 2013)

Table I Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
M4 Western Motorway (Mays Hill to Prospect)	1989	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	Ended 2010
AUSSAT	1991	Telecommunications	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
M5 South West Motorway	1991	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2026
Loy Yang B Power Station I	1992	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Blue Mountains Sewage Transfer Tunnel	1993	Water	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2028
Macarthur Water Treatment Plant	1993	Water	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2030
Melbourne buses I	1993	Public transport	Franchise	VIC	Victorian Government	2023 (current franchise)
Prospect Water Treatment Plant	1993	Water	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2026
Qantas I	1993	Airlines	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
SAGASCO	1993	Gas distribution, gas production, gas retail	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	N/A
Gladstone Power Station	1994	Electricity generation	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
Illawarra / Woronora Water Treatment Plant	1994	Water	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2019
M2 Motorway	1994	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2048 (original end date 2042)
Moomba Sydney Pipeline System	1994	Gas transmission, gas distribution	Privatisation	NSW, ACT	Australian Government	N/A
Adelaide buses I	1995	Public transport	Franchise	SA	South Australian Government	2019 (current franchise)
Citipower	1995	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
CityLink Freeway	1995	Roads	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2047 (original end date 2034)
Eastern Energy (AusNet Services)	1995	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
New Southern Railway Stations Agreement (Airport Link)	1995	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2030
Pipeline Authority of South Australia	1995	Gas transmission	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	N/A
Perth buses I	1995	Public transport	Franchise	WA	Western Australian Government	Varies by contract*
Powercor	1995	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Qantas 2	1995	Airlines	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
Solaris Power (Jemena)	1995	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
South Perth Ferry	1995	Public transport	Franchise	WA	Western Australian Government	2021 (current franchise)
United Energy	1995	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Adelaide buses 2	1996	Public transport	Franchise	SA	South Australian Government	2019 (current franchise)
Collinsville Power Station	1996	Electricity generation	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A

Table 1 Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
Hazelwood Power Station/Energy Brix	1996	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Perth buses 2	1996	Public transport	Franchise	WA	Western Australian Government	Varies by contract
Port of Geelong	1996	Ports	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Port of Portland	1996	Ports	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
State Gas Pipeline (Wallumbilla Rockhampton pipeline)	1996	Gas transmission	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
Yallourn Energy	1996	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Australian National Railways Commission (ANRC) passenger operations (Pax Rail)	1997	Above rail passenger	Privatisation	WA, NT, SA, VIC, NSW	Australian Government	N/A
Australian National Railways Commission (ANRC) South Australian operations (SA Rail)	1997	Above rail freight, rail infrastructure	Privatisation	SA	Australian Government	N/A
Australian National Railways Commission (ANRC) Tasmanian operations (TasRail)	1997	Above rail freight, rail infrastructure	Privatisation	TAS	Australian Government	N/A (renationalised 2008, 2009)
Brisbane Airport	1997	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Australian Government	2096
Eastern Distributor	1997	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2048
Loy Yang A Power Station	1997	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Loy Yang B Power Station 2	1997	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Melbourne Airport	1997	Airports	Privatisation	VIC	Australian Government	2096
Perth Airport	1997	Airports	Privatisation	WA	Australian Government	2096
Port of Hastings Port Management Agreement	1997	Ports	Franchise	VIC	Victorian Government	2017
PowerNet Victoria (AusNet Services)	1997	Electricity transmission	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Qantas 3	1997	Airlines	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
Southern Hydro	1997	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Sydney Light Rail (Central Station to Wentworth Park)	1997	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2028
Telstra T1	1997	Telecommunications	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
Adelaide Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	SA	Australian Government	2097
Alice Springs Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	NT	Australian Government	2097
Archerfield Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Australian Government	2097
Canberra Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	ACT	Australian Government	2097
Coolangatta Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Australian Government	2097

Table 1 Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline	1998	Gas transmission	Privatisation	WA	Western Australian Government	N/A
Darwin Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	NT	Australian Government	2097
Jandakot Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	WA	Australian Government	2097
Launceston Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	TAS	Australian Government	2097
Melbourne buses 2	1998	Public transport	Franchise	VIC	Victorian Government	2023 (current franchise)
Moorabbin Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	VIC	Australian Government	2097
Mount Isa Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Australian Government	2097
Parafield Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	SA	Australian Government	2097
Perth buses 3	1998	Public transport	Franchise	WA	Western Australian Government	Varies by contract
Tennant Creek Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	NT	Australian Government	2097
Townsville Airport	1998	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Australian Government	2097
AQUA 2000 Project	1999	Water	PPP	VIC	Coliban Water Authority	2027
<i>Victoria electricity generation privatisation - Ecogen Energy</i>						
Jeeralang Power Station	1999	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Newport Power Station	1999	Electricity generation	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
<i>Electricity Trust of South Australia privatisation</i>						
ETSA Utilities (SA Power Networks)	1999	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2199
ETSA Power	1999	Electricity retail	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	N/A
Melbourne trains	1999	Public transport	Franchise	VIC	Victorian Government	2024 (current contract)
Melbourne trams	1999	Public transport	Franchise	VIC	Victorian Government	2024 (current contract)
Victoria regional trains	1999	Public transport	Franchise	VIC	Victorian Government	2009 (terminated 2002)
Multinet/Ikon Energy	1999	Gas distribution, gas retail	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Stratus Networks/Energy 21	1999	Gas distribution, gas retail	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
Telstra T2	1999	Telecommunications	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
Transmission Pipelines Australia (GasNet)	1999	Gas transmission	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
<i>V/Line Freight</i>						
V/Line Freight (network)	1999	Rail infrastructure	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	2044 (terminated 2007)
V/Line Freight (service)	1999	Above rail freight	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A

Table 1 Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
Westar/Kinetik	1999	Gas distribution, gas retail	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	N/A
ActewAGL	2000	Electricity distribution, gas distribution, electricity retail, gas retail, water (until 2012)	Joint venture	ACT	ACT Government	N/A
Adelaide buses 3	2000	Public transport	Franchise	SA	South Australian Government	2019 (current franchise)
AlintaGas	2000	Gas distribution	Privatisation	WA	Western Australian Government	N/A
ElectraNet SA	2000	Electricity transmission	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2200
<i>South Australia electricity generation privatisation 1 - Flinders Power</i>						
Northern Power Station	2000	Electricity generation	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Thomas Playford Power Station	2000	Electricity generation	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
<i>South Australia electricity generation privatisation 2 - Synergen</i>						
Dry Creek Gas Power Station	2000	Electricity generation	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Mintaro Gas Power Station	2000	Electricity generation	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Snuggery Gas Power Station	2000	Electricity generation	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Port Lincoln Gas Power Station	2000	Electricity generation	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Tarcoola-Darwin Railway	2000	Above rail freight, rail infrastructure	PPP	NT, SA	South Australian Government, Northern Territory Government	2054
Torrens Island Power Station (Optima Energy)	2000	Electricity generation	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
<i>Westrail</i>						
Westrail freight division	2000	Above rail freight	Privatisation	WA	Western Australian Government	N/A
Westrail network	2000	Rail infrastructure	Privatisation	WA	Western Australian Government	2049
Wodonga Wastewater Treatment Plant	2000	Water	PPP	VIC	North East Region Water Authority	2023 (terminated 2012)
Calide C Power Station	2001	Electricity generation	Joint Venture	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
Essendon Airport	2001	Airports	Privatisation	VIC	Australian Government	2100
<i>Flinders Ports</i>						
Port Adelaide	2001	Ports	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Port Giles	2001	Ports	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Port Lincoln	2001	Ports	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Port of Klein Point	2001	Ports	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Port of Thevenard	2001	Ports	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100

Table I Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
Port of Wallaroo	2001	Ports	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Port Pirie	2001	Ports	Privatisation	SA	South Australian Government	2100
Broadcast Australia	2002	Telecommunications	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
Cross City Tunnel	2002	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2035
National Rail Corporation/FreightCorp	2002	Above rail freight	Privatisation	NSW, VIC	Australian Government, NSW Government	N/A
Southern Cross Station	2002	Public transport	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2036
<i>Sunshine Electricity Joint Venture</i>						
Broadwater Power Station	2002	Electricity generation	Joint venture	NSW	NSW Government	N/A (divested 2013)
Condong Sugar Mill Power Station	2002	Electricity generation	Joint venture	NSW	NSW Government	N/A (divested 2013)
Sydney Airport	2002	Airports	Privatisation	NSW	Australian Government	2101
Lane Cove Tunnel	2003	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2048 (original end date 2037)
<i>Sydney Basin Airports</i>						
Bankstown Airport	2003	Airports	Privatisation	NSW	Australian Government	2102
Camden Airport	2003	Airports	Privatisation	NSW	Australian Government	2102
Hoxton Park Airport	2003	Airports	Privatisation	NSW	Australian Government	2102
Westlink M7 Motorway	2003	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2048 (original end date 2037)
Eastlink Motorway	2004	Roads	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2043
Parramatta Transport Interchange	2004	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2029
Chatswood Transport Interchange	2005	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2055
Roaring 40s Joint Venture	2005	Electricity generation	Joint venture	TAS, SA	Tasmanian Government	N/A (terminated 2011)
Allgas Energy	2006	Gas distribution	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
Ballarat North Water Reclamation Project	2006	Water	PPP	VIC	Central Highlands Region Water Corporation	2033
Clem7	2006	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2051
DirectLink	2006	Electricity transmission	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Sun Gas	2006	Gas retail	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
Sun Retail	2006	Electricity retail	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
Telstra T3	2006	Telecommunications	Privatisation	AUS	Australian Government	N/A
Waratah Rolling Stock	2006	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2044
Barwon Water Biosolids Management Project	2007	Water	PPP	VIC	Barwon Region Water Corporation	2029

Table I Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
Bell Bay Power Station	2007	Electricity generation	Privatisation	TAS	Tasmanian Government	N/A (renationalised 2008)
Colongra Gas Pipeline and Storage Facility	2007	Gas transmission	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2027
Go Between Bridge	2007	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2063
Hobart Airport	2007	Airports	Privatisation	TAS	Australian Government	2097
Powerdirect	2007	Electricity retail	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
AirportlinkM7	2008	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2053
Cairns Airport	2008	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	2117
Mackay Airport	2008	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	2117
Manly Fast Ferry	2008	Public transport	Franchise	NSW	NSW Government	Varies by contract
Rosehill Camellia Recycled Water Project	2009	Water	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2031
Victoria Desalination Plant	2009	Water	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2039
Country Energy gas network	2010	Gas distribution, gas transmission	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Peninsula Link Freeway	2010	Roads	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2035
Port of Brisbane	2010	Ports	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	2109
<i>QR National Sale</i>						
QR National	2010	Above rail freight	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	N/A
Central Queensland Coal Network	2010	Rail infrastructure	Privatisation	QLD	Queensland Government	2109
Bluff Point Wind Farm	2011	Electricity generation	Joint venture	TAS	Tasmanian Government	N/A
EnergyAustralia	2011	Electricity retail	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Gold Coast Light Rail (G:Link)	2011	Public transport	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2029
Mundaring Water Treatment Plant	2011	Water	PPP	WA	Western Australian Government	2048
<i>NSW electricity privatisation</i>						
Country Energy	2011	Electricity retail	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Integral Energy	2011	Electricity retail	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Studland Bay Wind Farm	2011	Electricity generation	Joint venture	TAS	Tasmanian Government	N/A
Country Regional Network (NSW)	2012	Rail infrastructure	Franchise	NSW	NSW Government	2022
Longreach Airport	2012	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Longreach Regional Council	2111
Sydney Desalination Plant	2012	Water	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	2062
Sydney Ferries	2012	Public transport	Franchise	NSW	NSW Government	2019 (current franchise)
Legacy Way	2013	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2065

Table 1 Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
<i>NSW electricity generation privatisation 1</i>						
Bendeela Power Station	2013	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Eraring Power Station	2013	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Kangaroo Valley Power Station	2013	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
<i>NSW electricity generation privatisation 2</i>						
Mt Piper Power Station	2013	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Wallerawang Power Station	2013	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
<i>NSW Ports</i>						
Port Botany	2013	Ports	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	2112
Port Kembla	2013	Ports	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	2112
Musselroe Wind Farm	2013	Electricity generation	Joint venture	TAS	Tasmanian Government	N/A
Darwinbus	2014	Public transport	Privatisation	NT	Northern Territory Government	N/A
<i>NSW electricity generation privatisation 3</i>						
Blayney Wind Farm	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Burrinjuck Hydro Power Station	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Crookwell Wind Farm	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Hume Hydro Power Station	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Keepit Hydro Power Station	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
<i>NSW electricity generation privatisation 4 – Macquarie Generation</i>						
Bayswater Power Station	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Hunter Valley Gas Turbines Power Station	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Liddell Power Station	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Liddell Solar Farm	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Tomago Power Station	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Port of Newcastle	2014	Ports	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	2112
Queensland New Generation Rollingstock	2014	Public transport	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2046
Singleton Solar Farm	2014	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Sydney Light Rail Extensions (incorporating CBD South-East Light Rail and the Inner West Light Rail)	2014	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2034
Sydney Metro North West	2014	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2034
NorthConnex	2015	Roads	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2048
Port Headland Airport	2015	Airports	Privatisation	WA	Town of Port Headland Council	2065
Port of Darwin	2015	Ports	Privatisation	NT	Northern Territory Government	2114
Toowoomba Second Range Crossing	2015	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2043
TransGrid	2015	Electricity transmission	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	2114
Vales Point Power Station	2015	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Western Distributor (West Gate Tunnel Project)	2015	Roads	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2055
ACT Light Rail Stage I	2016	Public transport	PPP	ACT	ACT Government	2038
Ausgrid	2016	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	2115

Table I Infrastructure and transport PPPs and privatisations in Australia since 1980 (continued)

Name	Date	Sector	Type	Location	Jurisdiction	Current contract end date
Brown Mountain Hydro Power Station	2016	Electricity generation	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	N/A
Forrestfield-Airport Link	2016	Public transport	PPP	WA	Western Australian Government	2030
High Capacity Metro Trains Project	2016	Public transport	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2053
Logan Enhancement Project	2016	Roads	PPP	QLD	Queensland Government	2051
NSW Intercity Train Fleet	2016	Public transport	PPP	NSW	NSW Government	2039
Port of Melbourne	2016	Ports	Privatisation	VIC	Victorian Government	2066
Endeavour Energy	2017	Electricity distribution	Privatisation	NSW	NSW Government	2116
Metro Tunnel Project	2017	Public transport	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2048
Moorebank Intermodal Terminal	2017	Intermodal freight	PPP	NSW	Australian Government	2116
Newcastle public transport	2017	Public transport	Franchise	NSW	NSW Government	2027
Outer Suburban Arterial Roads (OSARs) Program (Western Package)	2017	Roads	PPP	VIC	Victorian Government	2031
Sunshine Coast Airport	2017	Airports	Privatisation	QLD	Sunshine Coast Council	2116
Sydney Buses Region 6	2017	Public transport	Franchise	NSW	NSW Government	Under negotiation

Note: Projects grouped in red include several assets privatised in a single transaction.

* Franchise has multiple contracts with varying end dates.

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