

Submission to the ACCC regarding ATVs roll over frames

2 June 2019

It is interesting to read the article re roll bars for ATVs. I have been told, uncertain if this is 100% correct, that the designer of the roll bars himself received quite a hair raising fright whilst riding an ATV without a roll bar on his property whilst severely affected by alcohol during a neighbourhood party. This could be another reason he is pushing to have these roll bars fitted after his fright.

We run a dairy farm with paid labour and we feel the side by side whilst maybe safer they are a lot more inconvenient and time wasting as electric fences for strip grazing have to be shifted a few times each day. We started using the ATVs in 1990 on some flat and some very rough range country with 5 000 hours or 50 000 km each three years. These have been replaced with new ones at the end of this time. The workers do receive a warning of not running risks to speeding before being allowed to take on riding the ATV. We don't use helmets as they are inconvenient and as yet we have never had an accident.

Looking at the new roll over frame there should never be an accident by towing too heavy a trailer as where can one be attached to the machine to pull it. I believe there is still a place for ATVs as well as side by sides but regardless both have to be ridden with common sense and care.

As I hope you realize in the few years that sides by sides have been on the market I have heard of a few roll overs resulting in injuries but no deaths. These may not have been brought to anyone's notice.

I still want to be able to purchase a new ATV with no roll bar, when increased milk prices and the breaking of the drought allow, because of the benefit of its simple manoeuvrability.

The closest we've had to an accident is when a cow sat on the front of the ATV before to try to jump a gate. Would a roll bar have prevented this?

Trusting you take notice of a happy ATV owner.