

My name is Amira Schmid, I'm 14 years old and I want to give my opinion on the new laws you want to implement onto ATV's across Australia.

Please watch the video supporting my submission at the link below;
<https://youtu.be/Bn1Gr9sqFVw>

I race quads in the under 16s Junior 250cc ATV class with an age limit being 13-16 years old. The age group below mine is 7-12 years old and that's on 90 - 125cc quads. Everyone in these two classes is 16 or under but we all know where our limits lie. Everyone wears the correct protective gear when they ride because they were taught the right way from the beginning and protective clothing is mandatory in racing.

Almost all the quads used in these junior classes are not to be used by under 16 as per the manufacturers classifications, yet I am not aware of any fatalities in Australian Junior Quad racing.

As a racer I know and understand the risks of ATV's, but I also know that there is no point for the new rules you want to put into place. The new laws would almost certainly end junior quad racing as it would make it illegal for us to use the quads we race today.

Changing the law so that no one under the age of 16 can operate a general use or a sports model ATV is like changing the law that no one under the age of 16 can walk anywhere. Will you now also prohibit under 16 year olds from walking? There is no need for changing the age because someone under the age of 16 can easily operate an ATV at the same skill level, and in many cases at a higher skill level than someone over the age of 16, just by knowing where their skill's limits are. It is peoples own responsibility for their safety if they decide not to fit themselves or their children with the correct protective gear, or overestimate their skill level and ride beyond their limits.

I have put my heart and soul into quad racing since I was 10 years old because it's the one thing I love, and the one sport that satisfies me. Why should I or anyone else that actually respects the power that is between their legs when they sit on a quad suffer because of the people that got themselves killed due to their lack of knowledge or care around ATV's?

From 2011 to 2018 there were 128 fatalities caused by ATV's and 58% of those were not wearing helmets and with another 33% it is unknown whether they were wearing helmets or not. That's over half of the fatalities that could have possibly been prevented with wearing the correct protective gear. Of those 128, 18 were children under the age of 16. Of those 18 children 9 were not wearing helmets and with a further 2 it is unknown about whether they were or were not. Most of all these fatalities were caused by a rollover which is clearly misuse of the vehicle. Which brings me to my point being that with wearing the correct protective gear and riding within your own skill level ATV's are relatively safe.

Your law about wanting quad bars, ATV lifeguards or any other device that offers the same "protection" has now also forced Yamaha and Honda to say that they will pull ATVs out of Australia if the law does come into place. This is due to the fact that it is doubtful if these devices actually increase the safety of ATV's, evident by the tests that these manufactures have done.

Quad Racing already has a hard stand to survive due to the high cost associated with it. Your new laws will basically drive the final nail into quad racing in Australia and take away the chance to teach kids and teens the safe and responsible way of handling ATV's.

If you base this decision on the facts you will realise that none of the things you want to introduce will prevent a death. The only thing that will help is prevention through education and funding for

clubs like 'Quad Riders WA' that promote quad racing to help educate as many people as possible in the correct usage of the vehicle. The only thing you can do to try and prevent these fatalities is to make it appeal to people that if they don't play by the rules they will get hurt or worse.

Once again I urge you to reconsider introducing all these measures that potentially will kill off my favorite sport, as it will not matter how many measures you change and introduce they will be worth nothing if people don't follow the rules. As with any type of activity there will always be risks for people to get hurt or worse, and you can introduce thousands of laws but it will still not eliminate the risks completely.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Amira Schmid