

Director
Quad Bikes Taskforce .

Submission

Some observations from a 74 yrs Old , who has been riding Off Road Motor Cycles since 18 yrs Old . My riding over the years has mainly been Off Road :- main activities include Mustering of Sheep , Cattle and Goats on Pastoral and Agricultural Land Holdings ; Windmill Runs to check Stock Water Tanks , Troughs and Dams etc . Ridden over all types of Terrain - different surfaces , stones ,rocks ,gibber stones - soil types , calcareous sand (Sand Dunes) , clay , bull dust etc . Ridden over vegetation , through , under and around !

I have had control of the Handle Bars of the Motor Cycles over this time and throttle control has been with the standard twist grip throttle on the right hand side of the handle bar .(when travelling through the Outback my Off Road Motorbike was carried on the back of the Ute as back up transport in case of a break down)

I purchased my own ATV to use more for Recreational Riding (and back up transport , when travelling through the Outback) . When riding ATV/Quad , I felt that I did not have full control of the Handle Bar due to the Thumb Throttle , as approved by various Authorities , as this does not allow for full grip of the Handle Bar on the right hand side . After a while I made enquires and discovered one could purchase an after market twist grip throttle with cable and installed it on my ATV/Quad ; this allowed me to have full control of the ATV Handle Bar . My first ATV was stolen and not recovered .

So I purchased a replacement ATV and before delivery ; I had another after market Twist Grip Throttle installed , which in effect has the Thumb replicated with a Harden Plastic Extension to activate the Original (Approved by various Authorities) Thumb Throttle - see attached 3rd photograph of Blue ATV . Again this Twist Throttle allows me to have full control of the ATV Handle Bar and Steering .

See 1st attached photograph , as an example of Terrain one encounters with Work or Recreational Riding and there are many variations for this type of scenario such as deep Ruts etc ; a Firebreak down a steep slope with stones/small rocks scattered randomly across . Wether operating the Farm Tractor , driving the Farm Ute or riding the Farm Quad up or down this Firebreak adjacent to the Boundary Fence . The Front Steering Wheels come in contact with the randomly scattered stones/rocks and sometimes jolts the Steering one way or the other .

As can be seen in the attached 2nd photo of the Farm Red Quad with Thumb Throttle there is no full Hand grip of the Handle Bar (Thumb and Fore Finger do not meet around the Hand Grip and other Fingers wrapped around Hand Grip as in the 3rd photograph of the Blue ATV) . As such the Steering can and sometimes gets wrenched out of the Right Hand Clutches , which can and does make situations a bit awkward !

I was taught that one is responsible for one's self , therefore one makes assessments to one's capabilities and situations what ever that maybe (riding a ATV/Quad) .

I have kept this submission short as I could not get a point across , and that the above information/observation and Experience is useful to the Quad Bike Taskforce .

Kind Regards Ian Lovegrove

Now Retired .

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