

VIEWS ON EXPOSURE DRAFT

A rollover warning label is a good addition to bring awareness to those who are not experienced riders.

OPD – Schedule 1 – The Test Procedure:

This testing procedure is extremely flawed – when riding quads, NOTHING remains standard. The following things make a difference:

Human height

Human weight

Terrain – even slightly uneven terrain alters the centre of gravity

Tyre Pressure

Fuel levels

Age of quad

Angle of handlebars

There is NO WAY that Anthropomorphic testing simulates real-life situations, making any type of ‘standard’ testing a joke.

ROLE STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PLAY

Because Quad bikes are used extensively in farming and recreational practices, yes the Government should be focussing on safety, BUT no-one can prevent human behaviours! Bring back common sense! Quads should, at all times, be treated with respect – it’s up to consumers to start being accountable for their own behaviour!

If OPD’s are installed on quads, that will alter the centre of gravity and make the quads MORE dangerous than before. Also, there’s a huge potential for the OPD’s to get caught on tree branches in orchard or scrub situations – VERY dangerous!

There’s no proof that OPD’s save lives! It seems that the proposal lacks engineering and would only be experimental which is NOT acceptable. There seems to be an underlying theme in the proposal that leans towards a financial saving, NOT a safety improvement - ‘saving the Australian economy over \$200 million each year’.

OPD’s do nothing if the rider is not strapped in place – a seatbelt would make riding a quad FAR MORE dangerous, as riders would not be able to ‘actively’ ride which involves moving the body around to counteract cornering etc.

If there’s to be any type of protective devices added to the quads, they should be ONLY put on the ones that are used in situations such as mustering – it’s been proved that over 57% of incidents happen when speed is involved and fast turning (i.e mustering).

The Government should not be concerning itself with expensive ‘5-star ratings’ as none of this will save lives. It’s not evidence-based that it even *improves* safety.

When it comes to mandatory licencing, age limits, wearing helmets, training and protective clothing – these things are all band aids and are not addressing the real problem. Helmets are fantastic in their place – when there’s speed involved – but when doing general farming, they make day-to-day tasks much more dangerous because peripheral vision and hearing are both limited – very dangerous around machinery of any type.

Stability testing and vehicle handling tests are a good idea to ensure the centre of gravity is correct for the quad itself. This should be a high priority for any manufacturer of equipment.

The Government needs to remember that overseas standards are NOT appropriate for Australian conditions, and systems such as the UNSW TARS are not approved testing methods, so have no validated benefits. Internationally accepted standards that are evidence-based in both criteria and testing methods would be acceptable.

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