

ATTN: Mr. Stuart Robert MP

Assistant Treasurer and Member of the Australian Parliament.

Refer: Quad Bike Safety Standard Exposure Draft

Dear Mr. Robert

Firstly, please be advised that I do not own nor have I ever ridden a quad bike, I am however a farmer in North East Victoria with extensive motorcycle riding experience both on and off road. My preferred means of transport on my property is a Yamaha 125 Ag bike due to the type of hilly terrain.

May I extend my gratitude to the Government for, at the very least, endeavouring to keep quad bike users safer than is currently the case. I am more than aware of the unfortunate rate of incidents involving quad bikes which I feel requires some sort of action by the authorities.

I have previously spoken to quad bike sales representatives on why major quad bike manufacturers do not fit rollover protection devices as it would have positive sales results. Without exception they all respond in the same way, that these devices have the potential to cause as many injuries as quad bikes without rollover protection.

It always has been and always will be difficult to protect people from themselves. Our Work Health and Safety Acts have reduced workplace accidents but still accidents occur. Many sports have amended rules and added safety devices yet still there are accidents. Gun ownership laws have changed requiring training and licensing, yet we still have accidents.

As is the case for roads users perhaps a better option in this instance would be to have mandatory training and licensing system for all users of quad bikes. A system of visual reinforcement on safety with instruction from qualified instructors would help to protect quad bike users.

Fitment of a rollover protection system to quad bikes for inexperienced and untrained operators I suspect will have disastrous results. These riders will have an unwarranted and increased sense of protection which I feel may result in an increased accident rate.

Major quad bike manufacturers are best qualified to judge whether a safety device has legitimate potential to reduce injuries. They all recommend helmet use, they all recommend suitable clothing, they all recommend safe riding practises, they all recommend rider training.

No major quad bike manufacturer fits a rollover protection device! Why?

Sincerely Yours

Peter Roberts