

3 May 2019

Director
Quad Bike Taskforce
Consumer Product Safety Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
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Submission - Quad Bike Safety Issues Paper “exposure draft mandatory standard”

In May 2015, the Tasmanian Government announced the establishment of the Safe Farming Tasmania Program. The Program, a joint initiative between WorkSafe Tasmania and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks Water and Environment (DPIPWE), is designed to raise awareness of farm safety issues.

In May 2017 the Tasmanian Government extended the program to support the continuation of the Safe Farming Tasmania initiative over the next four years.

Through practical advice and guidance, Safe Farming Tasmania is steadily changing on farm safety culture. The Program is driven by education and practical WHS advice and encourages increased health, safety and well-being awareness and health and safety behavioural change within our rural sector.

By providing practical advice, information and support tailored to suit the needs of each individual business, Safe Farming Tasmania has now become a respected and trusted source of work health and safety information in both Tasmania, interstate and now at an international level.

In general, Safe Farming aims to reduce workplace injury and improve the health and safety performance of the rural sector State-wide. This is achieved with the full support of the following key stakeholders:

- Primary Employers Tasmania
- Fruit Growers Tasmania
- Dairy Tasmania
- Cox Safety - (independent representative)
- Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
- Tasmanian Women in Agriculture
- Tas Agricultural Contractors Association
- Rural Youth Tasmania
- Poppy Growers Tasmania

Safe Farming Tasmania continues to be a very strong advocate for the improvement of quad bike safety; and is proactive in promoting contemporary safety initiatives by providing specialised advice and guidance to Tasmanian farmers on how they can operate quad bikes safely on their farms.

As a member and major contributor to the Quad Bike Safety Interdepartmental Committee’s investigations, Safe Farming Tasmania fully supports the ACCC’s final recommendation. The introduction of a mandatory safety standard will drive improvement in the safety and design of quad bikes.



Data from multiple sources indicates quad bikes and tractors are associated with the highest number of on-farm fatalities, and are second only to motorbikes for causing the most on-farm injuries. Motorbikes are subject to Australian Design Rules under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* and under the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012*, an employer must ensure that a tractor is not used unless it is fitted with roll-over protection. However, quad bikes are not regulated, and are not required to meet minimum safety or design standards prior to supply in Australia.

From 2011–18, there were 126 recorded fatalities associated with quad bike incidents in Australia, this is an average of 16 fatalities per year. In April 2019 a nine year old boy died as the result of a quad bike accident on a Tasmanian farm.

The latest Tasmanian quad bike fatality has caused the Tasmanian Government to seriously consider the introduction of a Quad Bike safety rebate scheme similar to that offered in other jurisdictions.

On behalf on the Safe Tasmania Farming Reference Group, I highly commend the recommendations outlined in the Quad Bike Safety issues paper and in particular the creation of a mandatory safety standard.

Corey Spencer

Chairman - Safe Farming Tasmania Reference Group