

I am an Australian farmers wife and have been for 40plus years. I have seen many changes over the years but the one of the worst is this thing with ag bike safety you have going, done by people sitting in offices and just keeping them in a job. Most have no idea of life on a farm. we have milked cows for over forty years. We have had our children grow up loving the farm and joining in with the farm work and finishing up as farmers themselves. Farming in this day and age is almost a dirty word with greenies and vegans opposing everything that is done by farmers in the way they try to earn a living. The drought is another problem. Farmers have enough problems trying to feed their stock and put food on the table and school costs for their family. Now you are jumping up and down with this new rule you want of helmets and rules for ag bikes. Which will be more cost to them. I just feel like saying get a life you have no idea what you are talking about. Yes I know there have been accidents with ag bikes and you have all the stats but most of these are visitors or elderly people using the bikes without the knowledge of the farmer and they will not put a helmet on the old blokes will straight out refuse. We know a farmer near here who had a person working on his farm. That person allowed her child to go for a ride even though the farmer had said no one was allowed on bike except the worker. The child was injured with a broken leg while a helmet would not have helped, the farmer was sued many many thousands of dollars. Farmers children and interested others have to do day to day jobs from a young age and they have it in their blood. You cannot make a farmer of a child from 16 years old if he has never ridden around the cows checking who is calving or brought the cows in for milking or checked sheep. Paddocks on a farm are not like your back yard. It is often a few kilometers and no kid will do that. Those safety bars are another thing altogether. They are dangerous and trap a person if the bike does turn over.