

Dear Sirs,

The ACCC are considering safety standards for quad bike within Australia. The subject of safety is often driven by emotional and political views that are mostly clouded and not analytical in their judgements.

To define something as “ dangerous” we first must understand what we the people define as acceptable risk and unacceptable risk. This brings in the question of what has been acceptable risk because its always been there. Reason I bring up this point is that we accept that riding horses is a risk and will continue, Sailing boats is a risk we accept, racing motorcycles is personally acceptable if you agree to the risks. Then we get into the unacceptable risks that we wave our rights to like parachuting for instance.

With that said the fact that we are questioning the level of safety of a predominantly farm tool is clearly focused at a demonizing a segment that is easily Pidgeon holed. Why not ban all moving parts external to tractors. Many deaths and accidents every year from PTO systems alone. A quad bike is not inherently dangerous in itself. It is the operation and lack of maintenance at times that make the action fail. The one and only improvement for safety on any beast or machine to best preserve life is an approved helmet be mandatory. It is my belief that mitigation through education and not legislation is the only path to a safer outcome. There is no panacea that will ever make 100% safe of this type of tool. Just like you cannot make having a shower in a bath tub 100% safe. People will always find a way to misuse a tool or neglect their own safety for personal reasons. Education is the only real way of combatting ignorance.

Kind Regards

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