

Message: DOC/17/4581

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Subject: Quad Bike Comment

Attachments: image002.jpg

Â· Our farm beef business utilises 2 quad bikes. The first was purchased 1992 so I have 25 years of safe injury free operation.

Â· We know our farm well, and the hazards that exist. Recreational quad users on beaches travel fast on unfamiliar territory which is highly dangerous. Part time hobby farmers are also recreational users, not farmers.

Â· Helmets are always used on road travel between our farms. Full helmets block peripheral vision and hearing, are hot in summer at low speed, and are designed for motor racing. Lighter ag helmets are now used.

Â· Roll over frames make passing under electric strip grazing fences difficult and even dangerous, which is a daily part of our business. Also difficult in wooded areas, and prevent a spray tank from being fitted on the rear, safer than the front where it blocks vision and changes weigh distribution by adding 100kg to the front wheels. Our quads have tanks fitted on the rear carrier for half the year without issue.

Â· We would support a side by side rebate. While we could not do without quads for maneuverability when cutting out injured or sick cattle away from stock handling facilities, replacing one quad with a SBS could be an option if economically viable.

Â· After 25 years of safe operation I would conclude that most quad issues occur from misuse or irresponsible operation, and by recreational users more often than full time professional farmers.

Â· The challenge is to get inexperienced or irresponsible quad owners to respect the vehicle and its limitations. Penalising and restricting professional farmers in daily business operations with quad bikes is pointless.

Yours faithfully

John Bruce

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