



### Federal Agriculture Minister publicly distances himself from ACCC quad bike debacle

Small to Medium Enterprise Australia (SMEA) CEO Dean Logan, today applauded the Federal Ag Minister for his stance to bring respected global manufactures back into Australia as a partner, thereby more substantively addressing on-farm safety in and around quad bikes.

Mr Logan commented, “This is a courageous position to take by David Littleproud.

“There are no politics in this for him - it’s simply a logical policy stance that will save hundreds of rural and regional businesses, thousands of jobs and go so much further to reducing accidents and fatalities on quad bikes.

See the article here:

<https://www.farmonline.com.au/story/6986081/littleproud-says-quad-bike-safety-should-be-up-to-owners/>

“As a senior policy analyst, previous Executive Director of the Rice Growers Association of Australia and after spending 18 years in Canberra, what I find so encouraging about this decision by David, is that he has done what the National Farmers Federation (NFF) could not do; and that is look farmers in the eye and highlight the problem resides with us, not with manufacturers?

“Treating respected global manufacturers - who spend hundreds of millions annually on technological advancements - like the tobacco industry, makes no sense if you are genuinely committed to on-farm safety.

“FarmSafe themselves acknowledge that on-farm culture in and around quad bikes needs to change. Pushing respected manufacturers away does not solve that problem.

“We now have an opportunity to re-shape Michael Sukkar’s legislative instrument, the *Consumer Goods (Quad Bikes) Safety Standard 2019* tabled on 10 October 2019 or ditch it all together in favor of a more comprehensive solution.

“That solution resides with the NFF and State Ag groups partnering with manufacturers to deliver a national farm specific education, training and safety campaign.

“In summary, we’ve never been against Operator Protection Devices (ODPs) just the mandatory element and the draconian manner in which the ACCC has implemented the policy. No thought was ever given to the social and economic consequences and it’s ridiculous to think - when you reflect on safety - that the policy only applies to new bikes, not the 700,000 second-hand bikes in the market.

“David Littleproud solves this problem and so on that note, he is the man to take charge of the solution,” ended Mr Logan.

