



**SAVE THE QUAD BIKE  
IN AUSTRALIA**



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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Future Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) leadership join Federal Agriculture Minister disagreeing with the NFF position on quad bikes**

As many are aware the Assistant Treasurer Michael Sukkar tabled the *Consumer Goods (Quad Bikes) Safety Standard 2019* on 10 October 2019, which mandates the fitting of Operator Protection Devices (OPDs) to all new quad bikes sold in Australia. The *standard* does NOT apply to in-excess of 700,000 second-hand quad bikes currently in use. The action is against internationally peer reviewed science and Coronial Inquest recommendations that argue OPDs can make quad bikes less safe across key occupations and a raft of on-farm tasks. Hence every respected international manufacturer has left Australia.

Craig Hartley from Save the Quad Bike in Australia, “Not only has the Federal Agricultural Minister David Littleproud publicly argued the NFF got it wrong, we now see the future leaders of the VFF joining with AGFORCE saying the same thing. It’s great news for dealers desperately seeking leadership and support on this issue.”

Leonard Vallance, VFF President candidate noted, “The NFF’s position makes no logical sense. In the first place it staggers me that the NFF failed to build a relationship with globally respected manufacturers.

“As farmers and AG leaders - dealing with on-farm safety - surely the better solution is to embrace global manufacturers as partners, on what is a very serious issue.

“Farm safety is of the utmost importance. Farmers work with a range of machines and tools that if used incorrectly are extremely dangerous (chainsaws, firearms, electrical tools, heavy equipment, loaders etc).

“None of these are banned; but there is a requirement to be properly trained and accredited for almost every piece of potentially dangerous equipment on a farm.”

If the VFF membership vote for new leadership they will join the likes of AGFORCE, Australian Beef Association, mustering and dairy sectors, seeking to have this issue overturned. Added to this is the fact that Standards Australia walked away. The absurd reality is that anyone with a welder can build an OPD and comply with *the standard*.

Craig Hartley concluded, “Added to a mounting list of AG groups who disagree with the NFF are major corporations like Motor Trades Association of QLD, SME Australia, Australian Motor Association, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries and the GREEN Shirts Movement.

“We also have genuine anger from Scott Morrison Members and Senators - particularly the likes of Warren Entsch, Federal Member for Leichhardt - who are livid with the NFF on this issue.

“This decision affects hundreds of rural and regional dealers, who are now likely to close. The solution is so simple and yet so much more effective.

“Manufacturers made it clear; they’ll partner with the AG sector when it comes to on-farm safety. Now with the support of the future VFF leadership, we are one step closer to that reality”, ended Craig Hartley.

SIGN THE PETITION: <https://savethequadbike.wordpress.com/>

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Save the Quad Bike in Australia (STQBIA) is a campaign sitting under the national umbrella of the Australian Motorcyclists Association Inc (ATV Division).