



**SAVE THE QUAD BIKE
IN AUSTRALIA**



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MEDIA RELEASE

Morrison Government must now act as Victorian Farmers Federation change direction on Quad Bikes in favour of global manufacturers

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. It was a ridiculous decision; forcing every respected international manufacturer out of Australia.

Craig Hartley from Save the Quad Bike in Australia (STQBIA), “We need to praise David Jochinke and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) for today announcing that the VFF will side with a growing list of peak Ag groups and ask for changes to the standard to allow farmers the right to choose to fit an OPD or not, based on application.

“This is a seriously good decision welcomed by hundreds of dealers, globally respected manufacturers, Federal Ministers, peak industry groups and thousands of farmers who need and rely upon quad bikes daily.

“This decision will save hundreds of businesses and thousands of rural and regional jobs. [SEE ARTICLE](#)

“But, the Federal Government must act quickly to ensure global supply chains are realigned.

“Global manufacturers were not bluffing when they said they were leaving Australia due to this legislation. Hence they have focused production targets away from Australia.

“With the dispute with China escalating, Australian dealers and global manufacturers need policy certainly from Canberra and quickly,” argued Hartley.

STQBIA has argued for nearly ten months that the solution is actually quite simple and will save more lives on-farm: remove any references to ‘mandatory’ and sit back at the table with manufacturers and farm groups. The focus should be on education, training and licensing, in an endeavour to support farmers and change on-farm culture in and around quad bike safety.

Hartley continued, “It is also important to dispel some myths. For example:

1. It is ridiculous to suggest that this decision will trigger industrial manslaughter laws. It’s an emotional argument and one of the reasons we find ourselves in this mess.
2. Farmers are considered a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) under OH&S legislation. This means the farmer should have the freedom to undertake a risk assessment, based on application, and determine that an OPD could prove more dangerous - mustering is a perfect example.
3. Lastly, how can you legally force farmers to fit a ‘safety device’ that does not have a Technical Specification let alone an Australian Standard; given that Standards Australia walked away?

“Look, commonsense will always prevail and this decision by the VFF is the right one.

“Manufacturers have always wanted to be apart of the solution, not forced out of town. The Federal Government now has an obligation to intervene, show leadership by removing the *standard* and get everyone back around the table to save lives on Australian farms,” ended Craig Hartley.

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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).