



### Program to improve quad bike safety

19 May 2010

Workplace Safety Authorities across Australia and New Zealand have commenced a program to improve quad bike safety.

The trans-Tasman program will see workplace safety regulators from across Australia and New Zealand work closely with industry, including manufacturers, automotive associations, farmer associations, as well as unions, training providers and other Government bodies to reduce injury risks across both countries.

Farm Safe Australia report that more than 64 per cent of quad bike deaths occur on Australian farms and over the past decade there have been 130 farm-related quad bike fatalities across the nation.

HWSA Chair, John Watson, said every farming fatality leads to immeasurable suffering in close-knit rural communities and these figures are not acceptable.

“The working group is expected to deliver solutions to safety problems associated with use of quad bikes on farm properties and raise awareness of practical risk controls,” Mr Watson said.

“The group will look at issues that include design, safety equipment, training and instruction, aftermarket accessories, safe use and point of sale,” he said.

“The joint program of work will be delivered through an Industry Solutions Program where industry and regulators work together to address high risk safety issues - an initiative that has successfully provided practical solutions to a number of issues across many industries.

“The working group is focused on producing tangible and sustainable safety outcomes across the farming and agricultural industry where quad bikes are commonly used,” Mr Watson said.

The group aims to finish its work this year, including the development of a broad industry strategy to which all industry players will contribute.

The program supports the *National OHS Strategy 2002 – 2012* to facilitate the development of balanced approaches to agreed Australian and New Zealand workplace safety priorities.

Across the Tasman, the *Workplace Health and Safety Strategy for New Zealand to 2015* outlines a number of New Zealand national priorities, including workplace vehicles.

“The program is another example of the Australian states and territories, the Commonwealth and New Zealand working in unison to develop a consistent approach to workplace safety,” Mr Watson said.

Industry will play a key part in the program with the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) a member of the working party.

“It is our objective that all quad bike users are well informed of the manufacturer’s recommendations in relation to the safe use of these vehicles,” FCAI Chief Executive Andrew McKellar said.

Information about the campaign is available from [www.hwsa.org.au](http://www.hwsa.org.au).

Quad bike guidance material is available from individual workplace safety regulators.

**Media contact:**