



### **New support tools to help farmers and dealerships improve quad bike safety**

**21 September 2011**

Farms across Australia will soon become safer through the release of new tools to help farmers and dealerships improve safety and reduce injuries associated with quad bikes.

Part of an ambitious plan developed by Australasia's work health and safety regulators, a point-of-sale brochure, poster and pre-purchase checklist have been released to help farmers buy the safest vehicle for their needs.

The brochure, poster, pre-purchase checklist and the industry strategy can be found on the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) website - [www.hwsa.org.au](http://www.hwsa.org.au).

More than 30,000 copies of the brochure have been produced. They have been distributed to quad bike and farm machinery dealers throughout Australia as well as at agricultural industry events.

The Acting Chair of the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA), Peter Dunphy said the products were among a package of measures to be implemented in coming months.

"Quad bikes are an important and popular piece of farm equipment, but they present serious safety risks in the event of an incident," Mr Dunphy said.

"This is highlighted by the more than 140 quad bike deaths on Australian farms since 2000.

"Dealerships play a key role in contributing to workplace safety outcomes and with these tools they can provide advice to farmers on what to be aware of before purchasing a quad bike.

"The checklist will also help farmers choose the safest vehicle for the terrain and jobs on their farm.

"As with any purchase of farm equipment, HWSA recommends farmers speak to their vehicle dealer about their personal situation and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for use."

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) have endorsed other measures aimed at leading to safety improvements for quad bike use on farms.

The safety measures have been developed by a trans-Tasman quad bike industry working group comprised of work health and safety regulators from Australia and New Zealand as well as manufacturers, unions, automotive associations and farming groups.



## Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities

Australia and New Zealand

A range of strategies have been developed that will involve working with the farming community to improve safety and reduce injuries and fatalities. The industry strategy includes:

- improved point of sale material to guide farmers in purchasing the vehicle best suited to their specific needs and farm conditions;
- the mandatory wearing of approved helmets;
- providing farmers with the option to fit devices to reduce the likelihood of the rider being trapped under the quad bike in the event of a rollover;
- introducing a nationally recognised quad bike rider-training curriculum;
- guidance to help provide a better match between quad bike accessories and the host vehicle;
- encouraging compliance with manufacturers' guidelines in relation to passenger-carrying, load requirements and rider age, i.e. children do not operate adult sized bikes.

**Media contact: 02 4321 5474 or 0413 186 799**