

Reviewer
Safe Work Australia
Consultation on quad bikes in the workplace

Via [online submission](#)

Dear Reviewer

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (the Commission) welcomes the consultation by Safe Work Australia on options to improve the safety of quad bikes when used in the workplace.

The Commission is a statutory authority committed to promoting and protecting the safety, wellbeing, and best interests of Queensland children and young people. One of our central responsibilities is to maintain a register of all deaths of children and young people under the age of 18 years in Queensland under Part 3, Sections 25–29 of the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*.

Under our *Safer pathways through childhood* framework,¹ we continue to work alongside our partners who are also dedicated to creating safer pathways through childhood by contributing evidence-based research and data on causes and risk factors for child deaths and injuries.

Queensland context

*Between 2004–2025, the Queensland Child Death Register recorded
16 quad-related child deaths.*

Quad bikes are often used on farms and rural properties, where the home and workplace can overlap. In these environments, children may be exposed to quad bikes as part of daily life, sometimes operating them to assist with chores or farm work, or for adventure as they learn to navigate different terrains and build confidence in their driving abilities. Fatal

¹ Queensland Family and Child Commission (2022) *Safer pathways through childhood 2022-2027: A framework to guide the Queensland Family and Child Commission's child death prevention activities*, www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/what-we-do/child-death-prevention/safer-pathways-through-childhood

incidents have occurred with children operating both youth and adult-sized quad bikes, as well as riding as passengers.

Research suggests there is an incomplete understanding by both adults and children of the risks and hazards involved in operating a quad bike. Furthermore, there is a continued acceptance by adults of the risks involved for children when they are driving a quad bike.

Hazards and risks associated with quad-related injuries and deaths commonly involve or are varied by:

- the vehicle design (inherent instability of quads)
- safety measures (requirements for rollover protective structures)
- vehicle use (work/recreation, complex and adaptive decision making, dynamic loading with tanks or heavy loads)
- driver characteristics (physical and cognitive ability, mental maturity)
- driver education (active driving for conditions)
- the environment where the vehicle is driven (terrain, static and moving obstacles).

Proposed options to improve quad bike safety in the workplace

The Commission considers the proposed potential regulatory and non-regulatory options to improve safety outcomes would help manage the unique risks associated with quad bikes used in the workplace, and include:

- Requiring operator protective devices (OPDs) to be fitted on all quad bikes when used in the workplace.
- Mandating helmets are worn on all quad bikes when used in the workplace.
- Restricting the carrying of passengers on operator-only (type 1) quad bikes when used in the workplace.
- Restricting the use of all quad bikes in the workplace to 16 years of age and over.
- Improving quad bike data collection processes (non-regulatory).
- Conducting targeted quad bike safety communication activities (non-regulatory).

We must treat [quad bike safety] as a priority and ensure safe behaviour is entrenched in the community and that safety is in the forefront of all quad bike users' minds.²

By strengthening and promoting consistent safety requirements and behaviours in the workplace, these measures are likely to have a positive flow-on effect in the community, including influencing attitudes and practices relating to children's use of quad bikes on private land. Over time, this can contribute to a stronger culture of safety and greater

² WorkSafe Queensland (2016) *Statewide Plan for Improving Quad Bike Safety in Queensland 2016-2019*, p. 1, Queensland Government, www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0033/27987/statewide-plan-for-improving-quad-bike-safety-in-queensland-2016-2019.pdf

awareness of the risks associated with quad bike use, supporting improved outcomes for children and families.

I have enclosed a copy of the Commission's recent reports on quad bikes, which provides additional data for your consideration:

- *Preventable child deaths and injuries involving quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles* (insights paper)
- *Understanding the dangers: Quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles* (summary overview).

These reports can also be accessed via the Commission's website at <https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/publication/understanding-dangers-quad-bikes-and-side-side-vehicles>.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me directly on or via email at

Yours sincerely

Luke Twyford

Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child Commission
May 2026