



Country Women's Association of NSW

*Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament
Constituent Society of the Associated Country Women of the World*

ABN 82 318 909 926

Media Release

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CWA of NSW urges farming families to prioritise quad bike safety

Country Women's Association of NSW President Annette Turner has urged farming families to prioritise quad bike safety, with a staggering 111 people across Australia losing their lives since 2011 in quad bike accidents¹, with 29 of these incidents occurring in NSW. Thousands more have been injured.

The appeal comes following the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Matt Kean's announcement today that the NSW Government has doubled the value of rebates available to farmers for quad bike safety measures. The CWA of NSW is a member of the NSW Quad Bike Industry Action Group and Mrs Turner says she is proud that the iconic regional organisation has taken a role in this important initiative.

"SafeWork NSW's program is aimed at preventing unnecessary deaths and injuries from quad bike accidents, which we all know have tragic and far-reaching consequences for farming families and communities across the state," Mrs Turner said.

"A target has been set to drive down quad bike-related deaths and serious injuries in NSW to zero by 2020, but it will take a community effort to achieve this goal."

Tamworth business owner and farmer Marjolyn Thomas was reminded of the importance of quad bike safety first hand when her daughter Amber was injured in an on-farm accident.

"Both my children have ridden motorbikes from the age of four and have been drilled with the need for safe speeds and the use of safety equipment, including motorbike helmets, long pants, sturdy fully-enclosed shoes and upper body protection," Mrs Thomas said.

As with many farming families, Mrs Thomas' children regularly use the quad bike to go to the end of the driveway to catch the school bus, but in 2012, her daughter Amber was involved in an accident when the quad bike she was riding flipped, when she simply took her hand off the steering wheel to insert her earphones.

"It still chills me, the ease with which the quad flipped over and how quickly it happened, particularly considering the quad was hardly moving...the quad literally rolled at no more than walking speed," Mrs Thomas said.

"The front wheel hit the bank of the driveway, the wheel turned sharply and before my daughter could do anything the quad had flipped and she was caught underneath. She couldn't move and couldn't lift the

¹ SafeWork NSW - <http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/news/media-release/quad-bike-safety-rebates-doubled>

quad off herself. She laid there for close to half an hour before we drove by on our way into town. My son developed superhuman powers and single-handedly lifted the quad off my daughter before I even had the car in 'park'. We still talk about that - the power the human body is capable of when adrenaline kicks in!" Mrs Thomas said.

"We had actually never taken motorbikes or quads for granted, but I'm even more aware now. Quads are very useful farm tools but users must be respectful of the fact that they can be dangerous if not used correctly," Mrs Thomas said.

Mrs Turner said the CWA are keen to support SafeWork NSW in keeping keep this awareness front of mind for farming families, and helping others avoid the experience the Thomas' faced.

"The government's Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program, introduced last July, gave farmers access to a one-off rebate to buy helmets, undertake training, retrofit safety equipment to existing quad bikes, and/or buy a safer side-by-side farm vehicle," Mrs Turner said.

"Recently the Government has doubled the rebate to \$1000 for the purchase of a side-by-side vehicle, \$500 for the retrofitting of safety equipment to an existing quad bike, and \$90 for the purchase of an approved helmet. As many farmers have more than one quad bike, from today they can also apply for two rebates, meaning they can be eligible for up to \$2000 rather than the original \$500 if they are buying side-by-sides," Mrs Turner said.

The rebate and the Industry Action Group is part of the NSW Government's Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program to support land managers to adopt a range of harm-prevention strategies to protect workers, family members and themselves.

The Industry Action Group includes a range of stakeholders representing the motor vehicle manufacturing industry, rural sector, government and emergency services.

For further information, visit Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program or call 13 10 50. To apply for SafeWork NSW's rebate, visit www.nswfarmers.org.au.

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For further information and/or to arrange interviews please contact:

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