



The Hon Greg Pearce MLC

Minister for Finance and Services

Minister for the Illawarra

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$1 MILLION TO REDUCE QUAD BIKE DEATHS

The Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce today announced the NSW Government will spend \$1 million to try and reduce the number of quad bike deaths across the state.

Mr Pearce said the money will be used to fund research into vehicle safety and improve quad bike protective devices and accessories.

“According to Farmsafe Australia, more than 150 people have died in quad bike incidents in the last 10 years, with almost nine out of 10 rollover deaths occurring on farms,” Mr Pearce said.

“Quad bikes are used extensively on farms for weed control, mustering, property inspections and maintenance work.

“Earlier this month a 13 year old girl died after falling off a quad bike near Wollongong – and last year the oldest victim from a quad bike fatality was a 94-year-old man.

“Every quad bike fatality is a tragedy and it’s time for researchers, regulators, manufacturers and the farming community to work together to improve safety for all quad bike users,” he said.

Mr Pearce said the research would be conducted at the University of NSW’s Transport and Road Safety research facility.

“Through this \$1 million research project, experts in vehicle safety will conduct a series of crash tests to identify engineering and design enhancements which could improve quad bike safety,” he said.

“Most fatalities are the result of head injuries or from being trapped under overturned vehicles and for the first time anywhere in the world, the role of protective systems in the prevention of asphyxia and serious chest injuries when a quad bike rolls over will be tested.

“The project will also consider the recommendation of a national safety standard for all quad bike manufacturers and suppliers”.

WorkCover and the University expect to begin its research shortly.