



Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Quad Bikes

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.11 pm): I rise today with a heavy heart for the family and friends of another young life lost too early. The Burdekin district, an area well-known for its sugar cane and the silver link, the mighty Burdekin River, is in mourning following a tragic death due to a quad bike accident. While the incident is under investigation, and out of respect for the family and friends of the victim, I will not be referring to that particular incident, but I stand today to plead for our communities across the state to learn from this incident and stop these unnecessary deaths.

The Burdekin district has lost two young lives due to quad bike accidents in just over 18 months. The loss of a child is a parent's worst nightmare. For friends and family the devastation of losing someone in their prime is beyond comprehension. However, it keeps happening. During the ACCC's review into quad bikes it was shown that each year there are 16 deaths that are attributable to quad bike accidents. Approximately six people per day attend a hospital emergency department due to quad bikes every single day and two of those people require hospitalisation. Research also shows that deaths and injuries from quad bikes and associated costs impacts our economy to the tune of over \$200 million each year, but this is not about the money, it is about lives and, in this most recent case, young lives.

As a result of the ACCC's review new safety standards apply to all quad bikes from 11 October this year with an additional requirement for general use quad bikes to apply from 11 October next year. It is a sad reality, however, that these standards will not bring back those young people the Burdekin district and other places have already lost. Those new standards cannot heal the devastating effects or incidents like these, effects that last a lifetime. Those new standards cannot erase the impact on families, on friends and on our emergency service workers. In fact, nothing can.

As a community we can help prevent the pain and the loss of life. Throughout my electorate quad bikes are used on farms, on properties and for recreation. In fact, they can be an essential tool for primary producers, contractors and emergency responders. However, like so many tools the effects can be horrific when used incorrectly. Today I call on all members of this House to call on your communities to stand up and take action when they see irresponsible use of quad bikes or any other vehicle. Take the keys, call the police, do whatever is needed because it is up to all of us to stop these tragedies.

The Burdekin district is in mourning and so are many others throughout the state and the nation. We cannot bring back those young lives or heal the pain of their families and friends but as members of this House we can play our part in saving other families and friends from the same pain.