

# HIERARCHY OF CONTROL

# RISK MANAGEMENT

## Hazard Elimination – Is a Quad Bike Suitable for the Task?

Vehicle selection that is fit for purpose should be based on the following criteria:

**Competency of the operator** – Quad bikes require an active riding technique, which is physically demanding over long periods.

**Load/towing requirements** – Review vehicle manufacturer's specifications for weight and towing. Towing attachments or carrying loads, particularly liquid loads, will affect stability and handling of the quad bike. Loads should be attached securely and at the lowest possible height.

**Environmental considerations** – Rocky, steep, uneven, sandy or muddy terrain will greatly increase the risk of quad bike rollover.

## Hazard Substitution

Consider a safer alternative for your workplace, i.e. a Side-by-Side Vehicle (SSV). SSV safety characteristics include operator remaining seated, Rollover Protection Structures (ROPS) and operator seat belt restraints.

## Engineering Controls – Crush Protection Devices

Quad bikes can be fitted with a crush protection device, which may lower the risk of injury in the event of rollover.

## Administrative Controls – Safe Operation

**Training** – Training for operators of quad bikes is available from a range of sources including public and private training providers. Informal training that is not associated with the national unit of competency may also be available and suitable depending on the individual circumstances, existing knowledge and skill levels. Information on quad bike training and trainers can be found at [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au).

**Farm Safety Plan** – This should outline specific no-go areas for quad bikes, speed constraints, attachments that can be used safely, and conditions the quad bike cannot be used in. The plan should also prohibit the carrying of passengers.

**Communication** – Implement a communication plan/check-in times if an operator is working remotely and alone.

**Children Under 16** – One in five fatal quad bike incidents involve children. Children under 16 should never ride adult sized quad bikes. PCBUs could be exposed to criminal penalties under WHS laws. Never carry children or others as passengers on single rider quad bikes, as it adversely affects quad bike stability and increases the risk of rollover.

**Maintenance** – Quad bikes should be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – An appropriate and properly fitting helmet that complies with **AS 1698**: Protective helmets for vehicle users, suitable boots, eye protection and gloves should be provided.