




Speech by

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MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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ULTRALIGHT OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.10 pm): This morning I tabled a petition of 339 signatures and an e-petition of 314 signatures requesting a change to the conditional registration category for the use of ultralight off-road vehicles on public dirt roads and lands. The petition calls on government to introduce a licensing endorsement condition so that public safety controls are met to replace the current police permit system, which is unworkable particularly for recreational quad users.

The use of quads has evolved so that they have become an indispensable asset on a farm, and demand for quads as a recreational vehicle almost equals that for a two-wheel trail bike. Quads are becoming increasingly important for natural disaster recovery and clean-up and rangers are now using them in national parks. Over the past 10 years off-road vehicles have underpinned the development of farm stays, feral animal control, remote-area fishing, remote-area camping, ecotourism, mapping and navigation sports.

Unfortunately, support teams were restricted in their use of off-road vehicles because of the confusion around licensing, registration and road use. The massive increase in sales and the use of these ultralight off-road vehicles has highlighted the redundancy of the current conditional registration category system, and this petition calls on the state government to recognise that off-road vehicles such as quads need a recreational licensing and registration system. Such a system would ensure that the users would receive appropriate training and would be able to demonstrate adequate skills to safely operate them as well as clearly define areas of use. Quad bikes need legal access to minor roads and public lands such as state forests and national parks to ensure safety and sustainable growth of a major tourism and recreational industry and to give users and local authorities clear, workable guidelines to enable successful integration.

The recreational water vehicle licensing and registration system was in response to a genuine need to regulate and educate users. Off-road vehicle groups have identified a similar need and it is urgent that the government responds to prevent—

(Time expired)