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FARMER SAFETY REACHES NEW HEIGHTS WITH DRONE FUNDING

The NSW Government is encouraging farmers to embrace new technologies in order to do work more safely and more efficiently, with new funding announced for drone rebates as part of the 2019-20 NSW Budget.

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson said the rebate is part of an extra \$2.8 million dollars in funding that will also extend the popular Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program.

“On farm safety is extremely important to the agricultural industry and sadly, something that often gets forgotten,” Mr Anderson said.

“We’re serious about helping farmers make better choices when it comes to on farm safety, which is why this significant funding extension is such a critical investment.

Mr Anderson said camera-equipped drone technology is helping farmers carry out a range of activities without the risk of injury or death as a result of a quad bike accident.

“Tragically there have been seven quad bike related fatalities in NSW since 2017, including two children under the age of 16,” Mr Anderson said.

“The good news is we are making a difference with this program – fatalities and incidents are trending downwards.”

Since SafeWork’s Quad Bike Safety Improvement Program was introduced, more than 3,000 farmers have accessed it, and about 250 training events have been held around NSW.

The program offers a rebate of up to \$500 to purchase drone technology and two rebates worth up to \$1,000 each to replace an existing quad bike, or have it fitted with safety equipment like roll bars, as well as a free helmet and training. Each farming ABN is eligible for up to \$2000 in rebates.

Farmers can apply for the Quad Bike Safety rebates on the SafeWork website. For more information visit www.safework.nsw.gov.au or call 13 10 50.

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