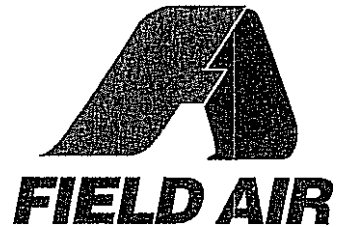


FIELD AIR (SALES) PTY LTD  
ABN 13113223794



PRIVATE BAG 25  
BALLARAT VIC 3351  
TELEPHONE 1031 5339 4222  
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21 November 2003

Mr Stuart Ellis  
The Chair  
COAG Bushfire Inquiry  
Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet  
3-5 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

*Adh  
5/12  
M*

Dear **Sir**,

**Re: Submission to the Inquiry**

We enclose 4 copies of our submission to the Council of Australian Government on Bushfire Mitigation and Management inclusive of copies for your panel members.

Air Tractor are the worlds largest manufacturer of purpose built fixed wing Agricultural and Fire bombing aircraft.

Field Air Sales Pty Ltd are the Australasian & Pacific dealers for Air Tractor. Field Air has worked in fixed wing fire bombing operations in Victoria and NSW over the past 30 years.

Fixed wing fire bombers play a vital **roll** in initial attack **and** the stopping of fires before they become disasters.

As a fire fighting tool we ask that the Air Tractor AT-802F be viewed equitably when considering the alternatives of aerial attack.

A balanced combination of fixed and rotary wing aircraft made in consideration of:

- Cost of litres delivered to target / carrying capacity
- Versatility and affordability of more aircraft in strategic locations
- Effectiveness, Speed and Accuracy
- Pilot availability and skill in operation

These factors will result in maximum effect and cost efficient investment for the security of our natural resources.

We ask that the resource of fixed wing aircraft and skilled local pilots be given due consideration by the inquiry and not be overlooked because of the relative high profile given to the helicopter by our media.

We also ask that the option of Patrol with fully loaded aircraft on high fire danger days be considered. This method is successfully used in Spain utilising the Air Tractor AT-802F with extremely successful results (Ref: "Three Million Miles" brochure).

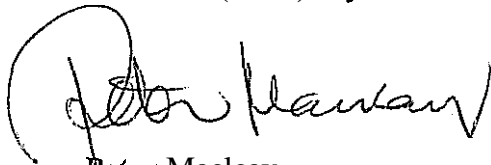
Resourcing aircraft from the Ag Industry through the provision of long term contracts will ensure:

- The availability of aircraft during peak fire periods
- Pilots are highly skilled and current in low level operations
- Aircraft equipped with the latest technology fire equipment
- Cost effective provision of resource through additional utilisation opportunities
- Full use of Australian personnel and aircraft

***The Best line of defence is the proven performance of Air Tractors AT-802F***

We would be happy to arrange a demonstration of the Air Tractor AT-802F, to provide extra copies of the enclosed information or to attend the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,  
**Field Air (Sales) Pty Ltd**



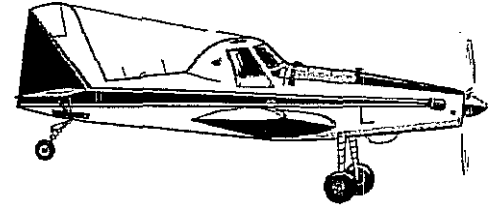
Peter MacLcay  
**General Manager**

Enclosures:

- Enquiry submission
- AT-802F C.D. Presentation
- AT-802F brochure
- "Three Million Miles" brochure
- Fact Sheets



Submission to **Council** of Australian  
Government on Bush Fire Mitigation  
and Management



Dear Panel Member,

**Re: COAG Bushfire Inquiry**

The Air Tractor AT-802F is a purpose built Fixed Wing Fire Bomber manufactured by **Air** Tractor, Olney, Texas.

For over 30 years **Air** Tractor have built strong, reliable and **safe** aircraft depended upon for their vital roll in agriculture and fire fighting.

The AT-802 is highly regarded by fire authorities throughout the world in countries inclusive of Canada, America, Spain, South America, Europe and Australia for the suppression of fires and the immediate response capabilities of this aircraft.

The **Air** Tractor AT-802 carries a 3200 litre load of fire suppressant. The excellent manoeuvrability and visibility of the Air Tractor allow extreme accuracy in the placement of fire suppressant.

Optimum drop airspeed and elevation above the target is important. Air Tractor utilises state of the art computer technology and hydraulic power in the patented 802F fire gate. This allows the pilot to select the appropriate level of coverage amount to be dropped and ground speed. The fire gate computer makes continuous door opening adjustments to accurately provide the selected coverage.

The AT-802 is fast, highly manoeuvrable with excellent pilot visibility and safety. It is capable of operating off remote area airstrips and roads.

**Initial attack is vital in stopping fires before they cause disaster and loss of life and property.**

The **Air** Tractor AT-802 is powered by reliable Pratt & Whitney Turbine Engine. It is a single pilot aircraft with an approximate cost of AUD \$ 2 million and comparatively low cost of operation.

Pilots skilled in **Low** Level Agricultural Operations have the expertise and continuance of experience to work as fire bombing pilots.

Agricultural aircraft were first successfully used in fire bombing in the 1960's and are today a vital part of our fire defence. The strategic use of pilots and aircraft from the Aerial Agricultural Industry provides the most cost effective tool in the control of bush and grass fires.



AUSTRALASIAN & PACIFIC DEALERS FOR

**AIR TRACTOR**

FIELD AIR (SALES) PTY LTD  
PRIVATE BAG 25  
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**Air** Tractor aircraft provide fast, cost effective and accurate delivery of fire suppressant. Equipped with the latest technology, the Air Tractor AT-802 is an essential tool and investment in the protection of our valuable environment.

Low capital cost provides the benefit of being able *to* strategically locate more aircraft for greater cover and initial attack and patrol capacity. **Aircraft dispatched at the first sign of smoke or lightening strike can extinguish a fire before it becomes a disaster.**

Consider the benefits, and cost effectiveness, of the Air Tractor's fire attack capabilities:

- Single pilot operation
- Remote airstrip or road operation
- Fast loading and **turn** around
- Designed for safety in low level operations
- Accurate computer fire gate providing infinite drop selectability for **all** types of fires
- 300 km/hr speed to target
- Low purchase price
- Low cost of operation
- Fast initial attack and patrolling

We ask that full consideration of the purpose built Air Tractor AT-802F fire bomber, together with the resource of Agricultural Aircraft fitted with specific fire doors, be viewed by the Inquiry.

Enclosed are CD and brochures for your information about the Air Tractor AT-802.

We would be pleased *to* present further details about the *Air* Tractor and *to* attend your inquiry if you require additional information for the consideration of your committee.

Yours sincerely,

**Field Air Sales Pty Ltd**



**Peter Mackay,  
General Manager**



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