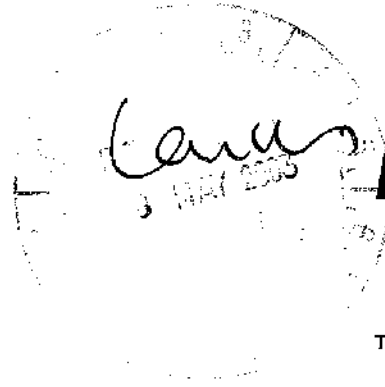




FIELD AIR (SALES) PTY LTD
ABN 13 113 223 794



PRIVATE BAG 25
BALLARAT VIC 3351
TELEPHONE: (03) 5339 4222
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6 May 2003

Mr Ian Dundas
Committee Secretary
Select Committee on Recent Australian Bushfires
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Re: Submission to the Inquiry

We enclose our submission to the House Select Committee on the recent Australian bushfires.

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.

Select Committee on Recent Australian Bushfires
Re: Submission to the Inquiry

6 May 2003

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).

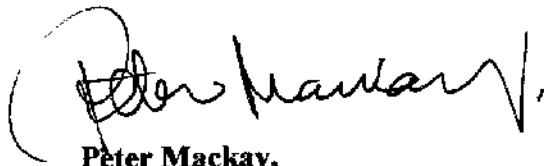
Resourcing aircraft from the Ag Industry through the provision of long term contracts will ensure:

- 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.



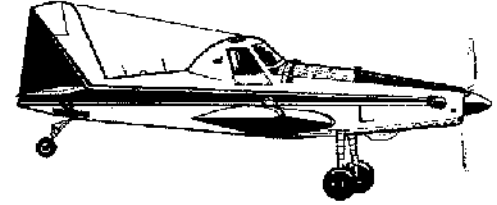
Peter Mackay,
General Manager.

Enclosures:

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



Submission to House of Representatives
Select Committee Inquiry on
Bush Fire Prevention



Dear Select Committee Member,

Re: Inquiry Into The Recent Australian Bushfires.

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

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