



**Delia Lawrie**  
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

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## **Is It A Bird? Is It A Plane? No - It's A Fire Fighting Air-Tractor**

The extreme, hot, dry conditions of the Territory put many homes at risk of being engulfed by bushfires every year.

But a new fixed wing air-tractor that can bomb a fire with 3 tonnes of water in one hit is the latest fire fighting tool proving successful in the Top End.

Natural Resources Minister, Delia Lawrie, said the Government is proud to have the world leading fixed wing Air Tractor in the Territory to combat the dangerous fire season.

"Last year was the worst on record for extreme fire weather so the Government invested in the Air Tractor, the best technology available, for the 2007 fire season," said Ms Lawrie.

"The Air Tractor has already been successful in putting out several dangerous fires, protecting lives and property.

"Our fire-fighters do a fantastic job, under some of the toughest conditions in the country but a tool like this with the capacity to carry such a massive amount of water to a fire so quickly is making the job of fire fighters a whole lot easier.

"A recent Batchelor fire posed a significant threat to houses in the Rum Jungle estate but with the Air Tractor bombing the area fire-fighters were able to stop the blaze.

"Without the use of the aeroplane the fire would probably have burnt out of control.

"A 'quick hit' from the Air Tractor in the first 10 to 15 minutes of a fire allows ground crews to get in and control the flames.

"Of course ground crews have always been, and will always be, essential for fire fighting," Ms Lawrie said.

"The Government is providing the very best technology to the fire service to ensure Territorians and their homes are safe from fire."

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