

NEW HOLLAND TRACTOR FIGHTS FIRES

(December 2006) – Victoria's Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) recently put their TS115A tractor to work on the front line, fighting the fire in the Little Desert National Park, north west of Horsham in Victoria. As fires continue to blaze across the state, the DSE remains on alert and continues to use the tractor to clear debris and create fire lines in at-risk areas.

Fitted with a custom-made dozer blade, the tractor works a metre from the front line to clear trees and create a firebreak. Bernie Poulton, an operator with DSE said, "I worked 12-hours straight and even in the extreme heat, the tractor was able to perform with ease – no overheating or strain on the engine - plus the air-conditioned cab kept me cool!"

The TSA's ease of use is a particular benefit in emergency situations, Bernie added. "When you've got a fire blazing around you, the last thing you want to be worrying about is changing gears. The TSA's shuttle transmission means all I have to do is operate a simple lever and the tractor does the rest. Plus the tilt and telescopic steering column helps me to find the ideal driving position and all hitch, valve and transmission controls are within easy reach."

The tractor is fitted with a specially designed frame to protect the cabin from falling debris and the underside has been armour-plated to prevent twigs or other material damaging the hoses or engine components.

Geoff Crisp, Sales Representative at New Holland dealership Horsham T & I said, "Another plus is that with a 40km ground speed, the TSA is almost three times faster than a dozer, making travel to the area of the fire a lot quicker. Plus, with a high performance six-cylinder engine it has the power to operate the two tonne custom made dozer blade with ease."

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[Photo Caption: The Department of Sustainability and Environment recently put their New Holland TSA115A to work on the front line, fighting fires in the Little Desert National Park, north west of Horsham in Victoria.](#)

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