

Winds fan district fires

Wind gusts of up to 26 knots and dry, hot weather hampered fire-fighters around Canberra yesterday, and the situation is expected to improve only slightly in the next few days.

A fire at Paddy's River, near Tharwa, apparently had been caused by an illegal barbecue, a spokesman for the ACT Bushfire Council said yesterday. Firemen also put out a fire at the Causeway tip, the cause of which was unknown.

A fire which has burnt hundreds of acres of bush off the Burra Road, about 60 miles south of Queanbeyan, was still out of control last night.

Believed to have been started by lightning on Friday, it was burning on several fronts and had threatened several homes.

Fires described as "serious" were burning in three areas south of Eden last night. The district officer, Mr G. R. Dobson, said they were in the East Boyd State forest two miles south of Kiah, the Ladgee State forest and the Ladgee nature reserve.

The fire risk in the entire South Coast is described as "enormous". The water shortage on many farms is said to be the worst in the district's history.

A spokesman for the superintendent's office of the Kosciusko National

superintendent's office of the Kosciusko National Park said yesterday that a fire burning over 2,000 acres in the western section of the park since Thursday was expected to be brought under control today.

Several reports of breaches of the total fire ban in Canberra on Saturday are being investigated. Most of the reports concerned backyard barbecues.

The ACT Bushfire Council spokesman said that although the total fire ban had been lifted, the danger remained high to very high. Fires were permitted in properly constructed backyard incinerators and in authorised fireplaces elsewhere.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.
A fire in Mt Buffalo National Park, the worst in the mountain since the 1939 bushfires, is under control.

It started on Thursday and has burnt 15,000 acres of forest. At least 30,000 acres will have been destroyed by the time the fire is put out.
