

NEWS

WATER SYMPOSIUM

A symposium, "The Use and Control of Water in New Zealand", was convened by the Wellington Branch of the N.Z. Institution of Engineers and held in Wellington on 1 and 2 December 1964. The recommendations, from the Symposium, concerning **Hydrological Data**, have been published* and are reprinted below.

There is an urgent need for hydrological data of all kinds.

(i) The future growth of New Zealand will inevitably result in an ever-increasing demand for water for agriculture, manufacturing and hydro-electric industries; and for domestic, recreational and all other uses. It is strongly recommended that action be taken to encourage the systematic collection of all data connected with these multi-purpose uses of water.

(ii) Hydrological networks are essential, and emphasis should be given to the basic regional and experimental basin networks so that fundamental data are obtained for the development of methods to be used in areas where no data are available.

(iii) Methods now evolved to obtain hydrological data for water agencies are considered satisfactory but it is recommended that all water agencies (whether water users or those concerned with the control of water) should state their local requirements, using hydrological observation programmes, and indicate as early as possible their requirements of published data.

(iv) All engineers should become thoroughly familiar with the present codes of practice and the form in which data are collected and presented so that they can ask for and apply present and future knowledge to the maximum.

(v) The extreme value of hydrology to agriculture and the necessity for additional data to be obtained on all aspects of hydrology as it affects agriculture is emphasised.

(vi) The hydrological organisation of the Ministry of Works, charged with the duty of collecting, analysing, and disseminating hydrological data in the national interest, is hard pressed to fulfil present demands and if it is successfully to handle future needs then the Department's hydrological staff must be substantially strengthened at all levels.

(vii) That the recommending committee explore, particularly with the Royal Society of New Zealand and the N.Z. Institution of Engineers, the possibility of establishing a national committee for hydrology in New Zealand.

* N.Z. Engineering, 20(3): 105-8, 1965.