

# JOURNAL OF HYDROLOGY

B-LIBRARY

NEW ZEALAND

SSI HY (60) N

Published twice annually by the New Zealand Hydrological Society

Volume 4

DECEMBER 1965

Number 2

## EDITORIAL

### Water Control and Soil Conservation Division

Hydrologists have long awaited Government's decision on Dr D. A. Williams' report concerning the workings of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council. Because, at the time of Dr Williams' visit, hydrologists were working mainly on projects outside the scope of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act, hydrology received disappointingly scant mention in his report.

Government's recent decision to form the new Water Control and Soil Conservation Division of the Ministry of Works is therefore a most welcome one, since it places greater emphasis on the many aspects of water than seemed possible by full implementation of Dr Williams' report.

That the Ministry of Works is regarding the scientific aspects of water as important may be seen from the following statement by Mr N. C. McLeod, Director of the new division.

"The Government's action in setting up the new division is evidence of the general concern that our water resources should be conserved, applied to their best uses and prevented from causing erosion. The importance of hydrological work has long been recognised and much valuable work in it has already been done. Although the new division's functions have not yet been finalised, it has been decided to appoint a Research Officer who will conduct the division's research activities, one of which will be hydrology. This will ensure extension and co-ordination of hydrological activities."

These comments infer a guaranteed status for hydrology in New Zealand. Therefore hydrologists may assume that in the near future they will be on an equal footing, professionally, with engineers, soil conservators and related research workers.

The present stage marks the first important break-through in the history of hydrology in New Zealand.