

INTRODUCTION

The main aim of the Reefton experimental area soil survey was to provide an input of soils data to compliment hydrological and meteorological data, so that a hydrological model of the catchments can be formulated.

There were a number of objectives of the soil survey. Firstly, to distinguish and map the soil types in the survey area; Secondly, to measure the properties of the soil types in terms of their physical and chemical characteristics; and to determine the major differences between properties of the soil types, with particular in relation to hydrological characteristics.

Parameters studied included : bulk density and porosity;
: water holding capacities;
: infiltration rate and sorptivity;
: hydraulic conductivity;
erodibility chemical characteristics;

Together with filed recorded data such as texture, structure, stoniness and organic matter as well as vegetation, geology and topography.

The nature of the terrain and time available restricted the amount of kinds of work carried out but adequate sampling was achieved for the main soil types. Interpretation of some data is tentative due to limited sampling for these parameters.

This survey was conducted between March and September 1982.