

Preface

This Energy Information Handbook brings together in a single, concise, ready-reference format basic technical information describing the country's energy resources and current energy commodities.

The editor of the second edition of the Handbook published in 1991, James Baines, was responsible for editing a similar volume in 1984 under the auspices of the New Zealand Energy Research and Development Committee. This is the third revised and expanded edition, published for the first time by the New Zealand Centre for Advanced Engineering (CAENZ).

CAENZ was established in 1987 as the Centre for Advanced Engineering (CAE) to mark one hundred years of teaching engineering at the University of Canterbury. Over the years, guided by 'for the public good' principles, CAENZ has played a strong knowledge-broking and facilitating role within New Zealand's engineering and technology sectors, seeking to enlarge this country's technological capability in areas of national importance.

As with the second edition, a new Handbook is overdue for several reasons. The original volume was prepared at a time when the gas sector in particular was in a state of rapid evolution. It is a very different now and so are the energy commodities involved. Since 1984, the energy sector has been re-regulated, corporatised and privatised to varying degrees. Access to definitive information, even of a technical rather than a commercial nature, remains problematic for many.

Climate Change and the depletion rate of fossil energy resources, more widely recognised now than when the second edition was published, add to the pressure of finding and using energy resources with the utmost efficiency and with due regard to the environmental consequences.

The data contained in this Handbook have been selected as being suitable for analyses and investigations at the planning and policy level, and for general consumer and student enquiries. The two main aims served by this Handbook are to encourage the widespread and consistent use of a uniform data set, relevant to New Zealand, and to familiarise users who do not have a technical background with the important factors that affect the appropriateness and accuracy of energy data.

Interest in strategic energy issues is intensifying even more. Informed public debate depends on access to authoritative data. It is heartening to observe a continuation of support for making good technical data publicly available among energy sector organisations. This Handbook is a tribute to the cooperativeness of many individuals in the energy sector.

The Handbook is not intended to be an energy compendium, and does not contain energy statistics or other data that will date quickly. There are several alternative sources for information of this type, such as the Ministry of Economic Development Energy Data File (www.med.govt.nz) and the EECA website (www.eeca.govt.nz).

Handbook Updating

As always, there are gaps in this database, attributable in the main either to commercial sensitivities (primary resource data) or to the absence of basic information (end-use data). In time these gaps may be remedied.

It is also likely that users of the Handbook will be able to identify possible additions or improvements to be incorporated in future editions. This Handbook will continue to be reviewed and updated from time to time to accommodate changing circumstances in

New Zealand's energy scene, and additional user requirements. Comments and suggestions from users would be welcomed. These can be sent to:

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