

Catchment Planning

What Level of Detail is Appropriate when Modelling Future Development Scenarios

Robert Kelly

The Aurecon logo features a small green circle above the letter 'a' in the word 'aurecon', which is written in a bold, dark grey, lowercase sans-serif font.

Acknowledgements

Tauranga City Council (Client)

DHI (Peer Review)

Target Audience

Anyone who uses model information:

✓ Planners

✓ Engineers

✓ Modellers

Aim of Presentation

- ▶ To get modellers to appreciate what development in a catchment typically involves and how this impacts their models and the choices they make.
- ▶ To get planning engineers to understand what information is required by modellers and the dangers of some of the assumptions the modellers may otherwise make.

And eventually
came out with a
thick report to
give to the
planning engineer.



Which the planning
engineer didn't
understand and put
on a shelf to collect
dust.



But then came GIS and 2d Modelling



But there are still issues

- ▶ While 2d results can look very precise this may not always be the case;
- ▶ This presentation focuses on some of the pitfalls when modelling;
- ▶ The focus will be on future development scenarios.

Catchments

We will look at 4 different catchments in Tauranga and the different problems faced.

- ▶ Mount Maunganui;
- ▶ Papamoa West;
- ▶ Papamoa East;
- ▶ Kopurererua Stream.

Modelling Scenarios

- ▶ Existing development;
- ▶ Maximum probable development.

Existing Scenarios

- ▶ Modelling detail depends on budget and data availability;
- ▶ And what results are to be used for;
- ▶ Generally more detail is better;
- ▶ Rain on grid - in flat catchments;
- ▶ Steeper catchments rain on grid may run past catch-pits so may not always be appropriate.

Maximum Probable Development

- ▶ Usually based on planning zones;
- ▶ Include an allowance for climate change and sea level rise;
- ▶ Catchment shape and size may differ from the existing extent.

An aerial photograph of a coastal town and beach. The town is built on a hillside overlooking a sandy beach and the ocean. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and there are two small islands in the distance. The sky is clear and blue. The image is overlaid with green geometric shapes, including a large green triangle on the left and several overlapping green polygons on the right. The text 'Catchment 1 - Mount Maunganui' is written in a bright green, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Catchment 1 - Mount Maunganui



Mount Maunganui

- ▶ Mount Maunganui - an example of a mature catchment which is already completely developed;
- ▶ But future intensification with infill development is still occurring.

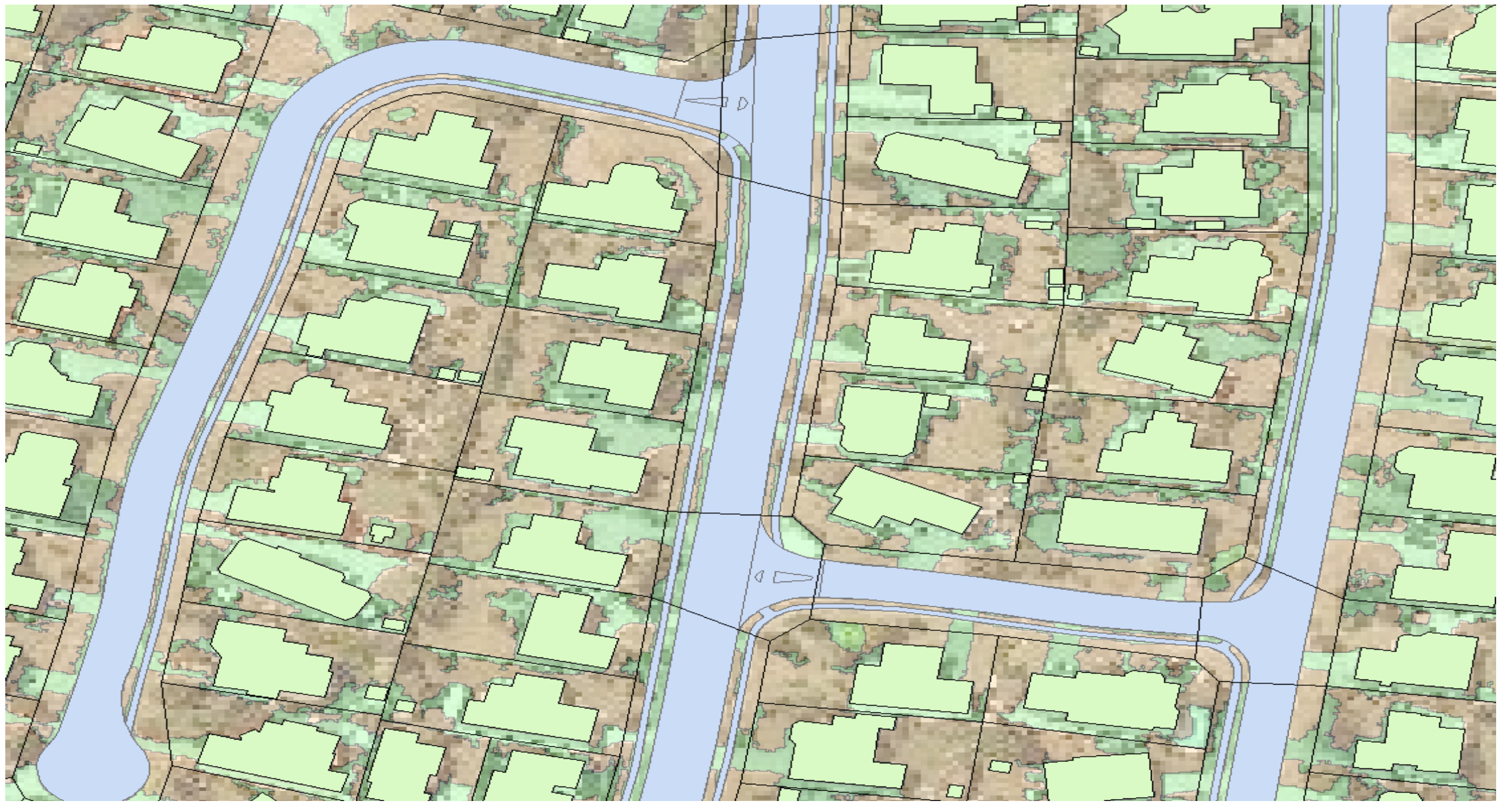
2011



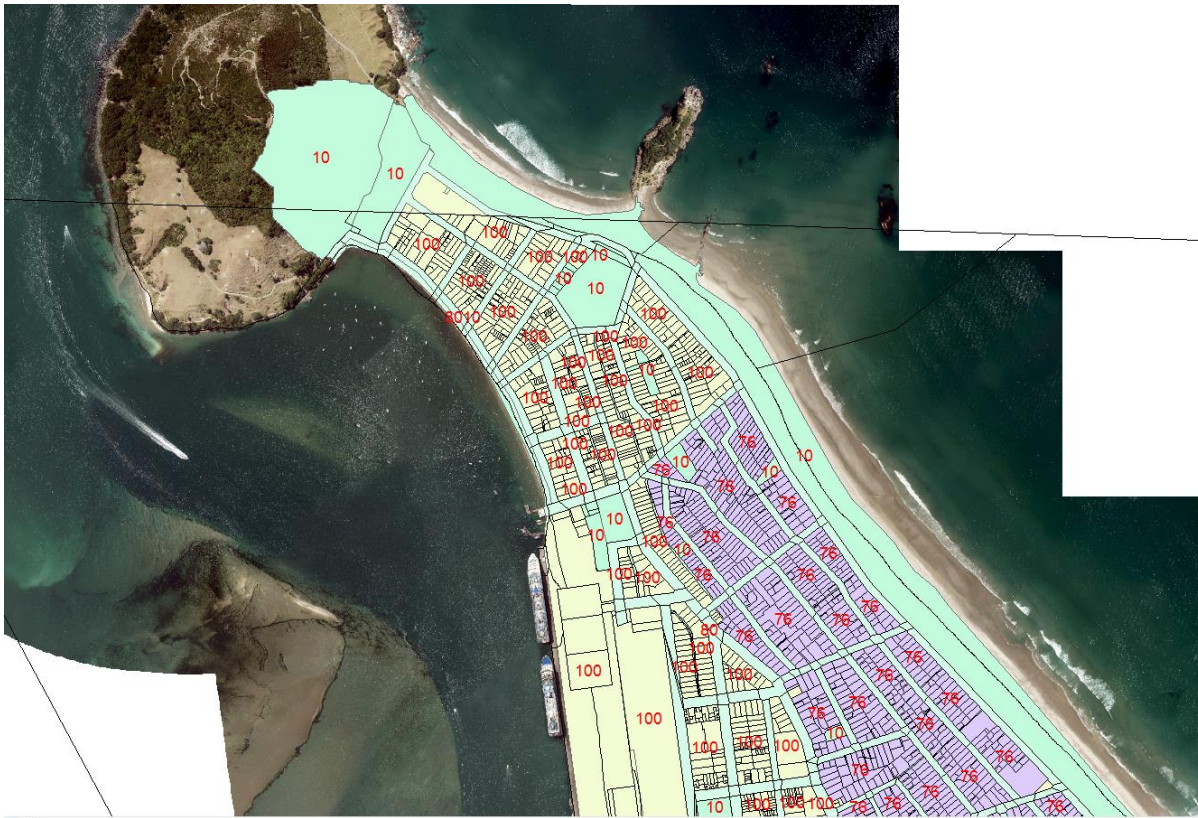
2017



- ▶ Currently Modelled with Rain on Grid;
- ▶ Infiltration layer with initial and constant loss rates;
- ▶ Infiltration rates (and hence excess rainfall runoff rates) depend on surface type;
- ▶ TCC had this information digitised.



Maximum Probable Development



2017





- ▶ Using GIS techniques the existing imperviousness was calculated for each lot;
- ▶ This is compared to the future maximum imperviousness for that zone and the infiltration rate of that lot weighted accordingly.

Example

- ▶ Lot size 1000m²;
- ▶ Roof and driveway 400m²;
- ▶ I.e. existing imperviousness 40%;
- ▶ Future maximum imperviousness predicted at 70%;
- ▶ So expect impervious area to increase to 700m²;
- ▶ Pervious area to reduce from 600 to 300m².

Example continued

- ▶ Say pervious infiltration rate 20mm/h;
- ▶ Impervious infiltration rate 0mm/h;
- ▶ Pervious area is predicted to halve;
- ▶ So for this particular lot halve infiltration rate for pervious area from 20mm/h to 10mm/h.

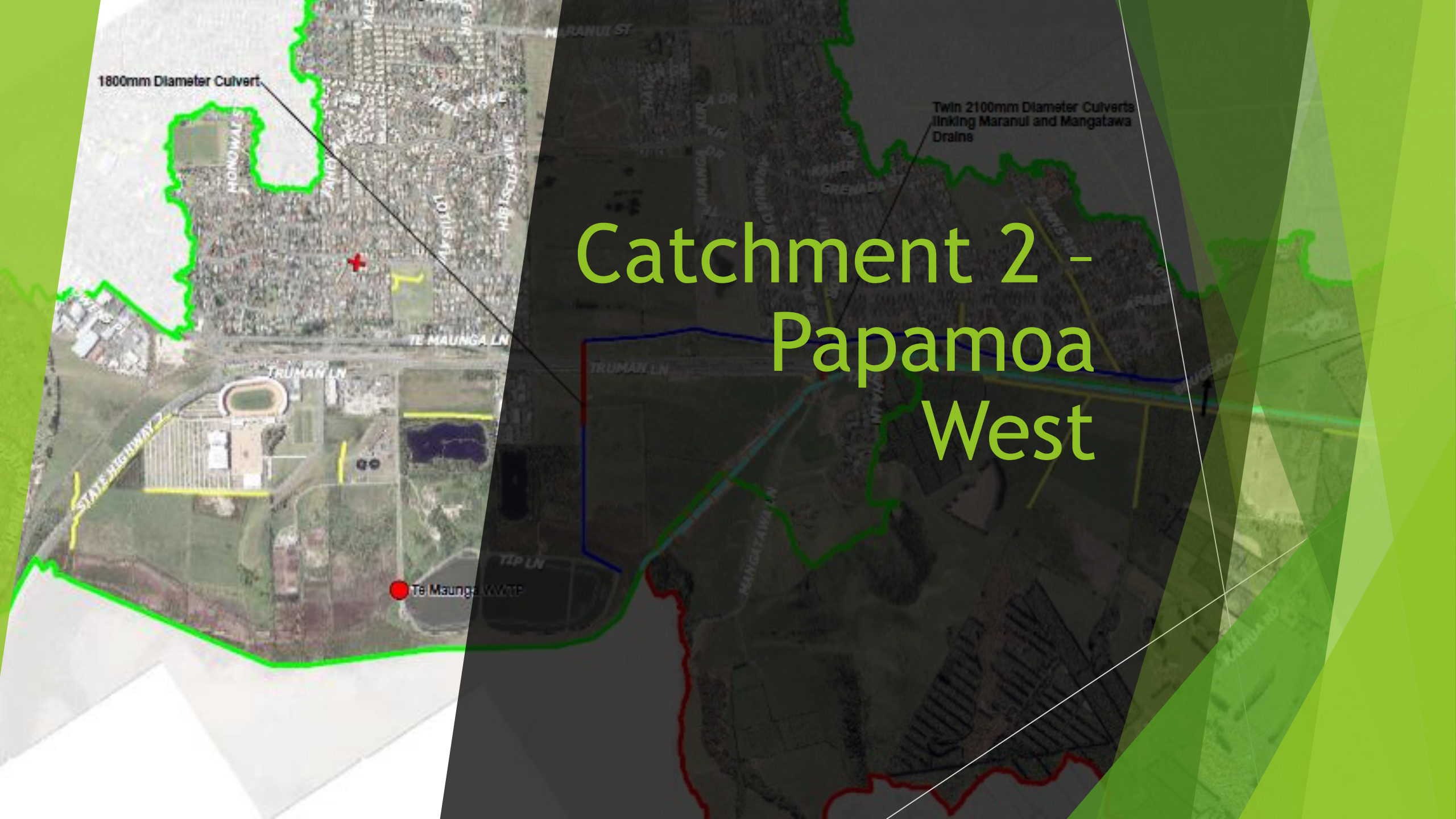
- ▶ This method is obviously an approximation but on a lot by lot basis is quite a good representation of the infill process;
- ▶ GIS techniques mean that this modification of the infiltration layer can be done relatively simply without doing hand calculations for each lot.

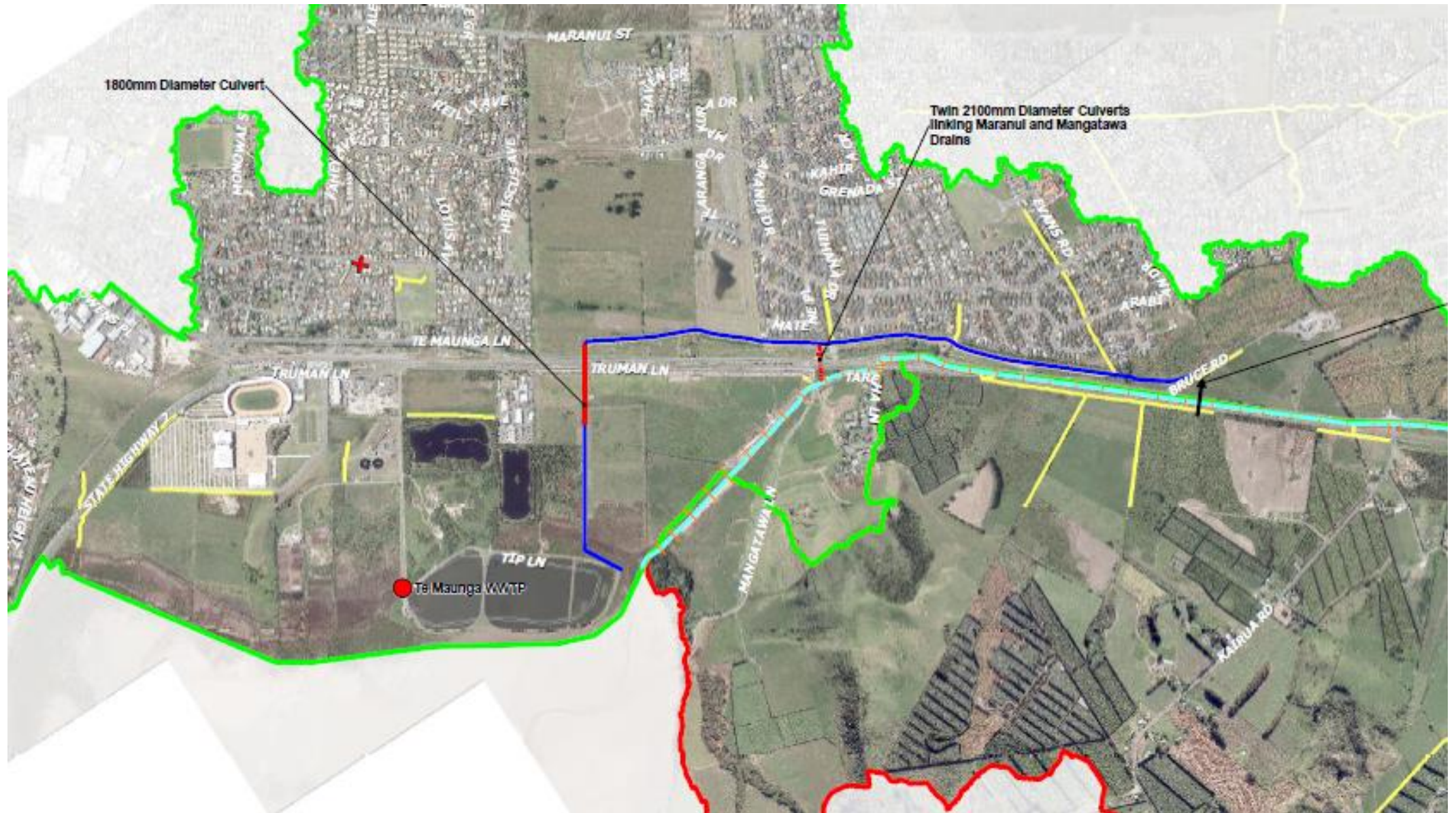
1800mm Diameter Culvert

Twin 2100mm Diameter Culverts
linking Maranui and Mangatawa
Drains

Catchment 2 - Papamoa West

Te Maunga WWT





1800mm Diameter Culvert

Twin 2100mm Diameter Culverts
linking Maranui and Mangatawa
Drains

Te Maunga WWTP

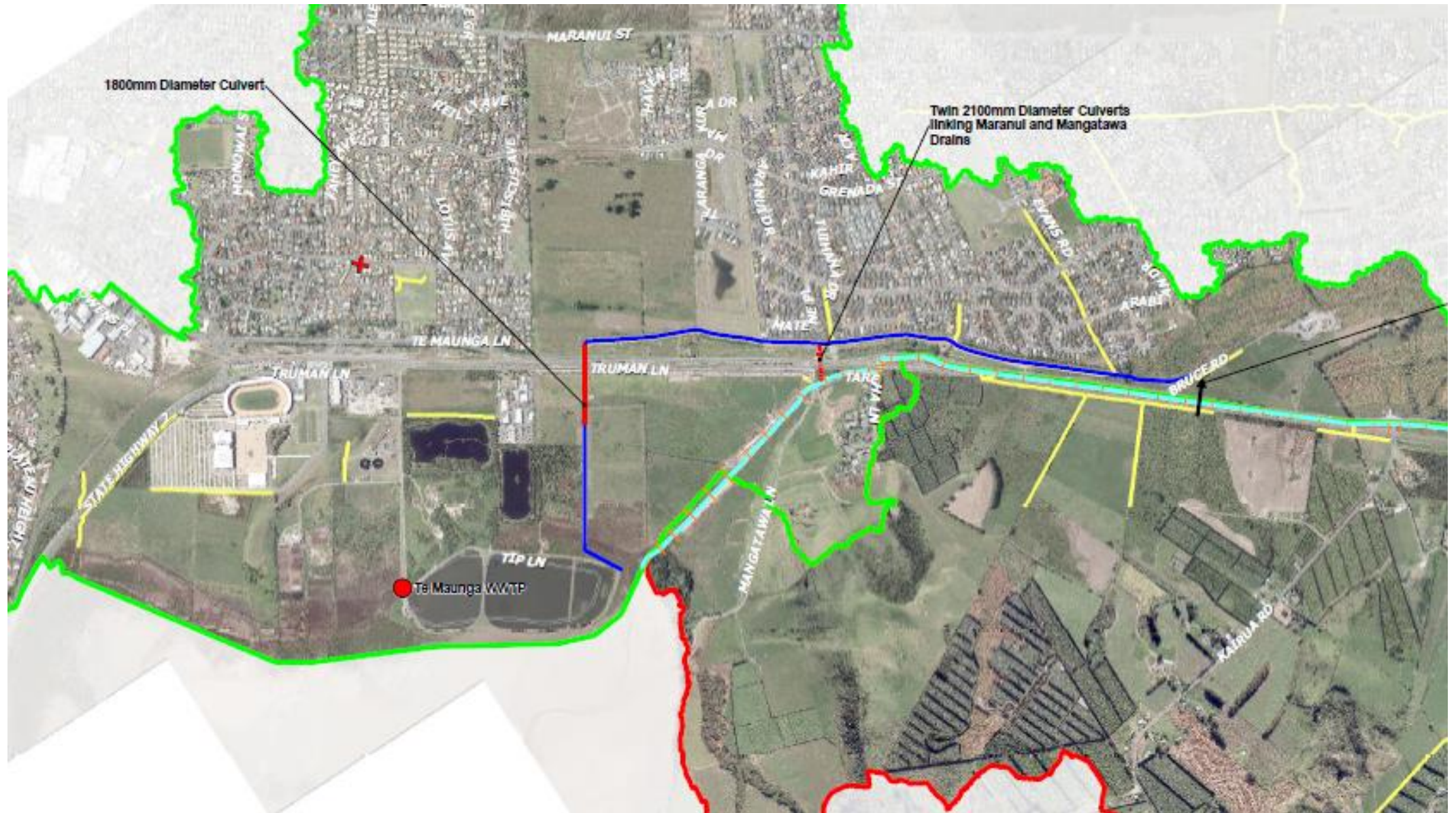
- ▶ Papamoa West is very similar in terrain and soil type to Mount Maunganui;
- ▶ So for the urban area the same modelling approach was recommended;
- ▶ But Papamoa West still includes areas of greenfield.



- ▶ Existing greenfield land in Papamoa includes lines of dune ridges and valleys parallel to the shore;
- ▶ Rain on grid drains to the inter-dunal valleys.

MPD Scenario

- ▶ The technique from Mount Maunganui Catchment was applied in Papamoa West;
- ▶ But decreasing infiltration in green field areas doesn't increase the runoff from these areas as the water is still trapped in the interdunal valleys;



- ▶ Using the “Mount” technique significantly underestimated the future runoff from this block of land;
- ▶ Levels in the receiving Maranui Swale were also significantly underestimated;
- ▶ Fortunately this did not affect flood mapping in residential areas;

- ▶ For this catchment the ‘complicated’ Mount method was not appropriate for greenfield blocks;
- ▶ A simpler runoff method would have given better results.

Catchment 3 - Papamoa East



This catchment includes 2 large future development areas



- ▶ Using rain on grid in these large greenfield areas would have had similar issues to Papamoa West;
- ▶ Runoff would have again become trapped in inter-dunal valleys rather than discharging to the stream;
- ▶ Instead the consent conditions for this area were studied closely and the model developed to reflect these conditions.



Updating the Model

- ▶ This catchment has developed rapidly and Council engineers were interested in impacts on flooding.

2011



2015

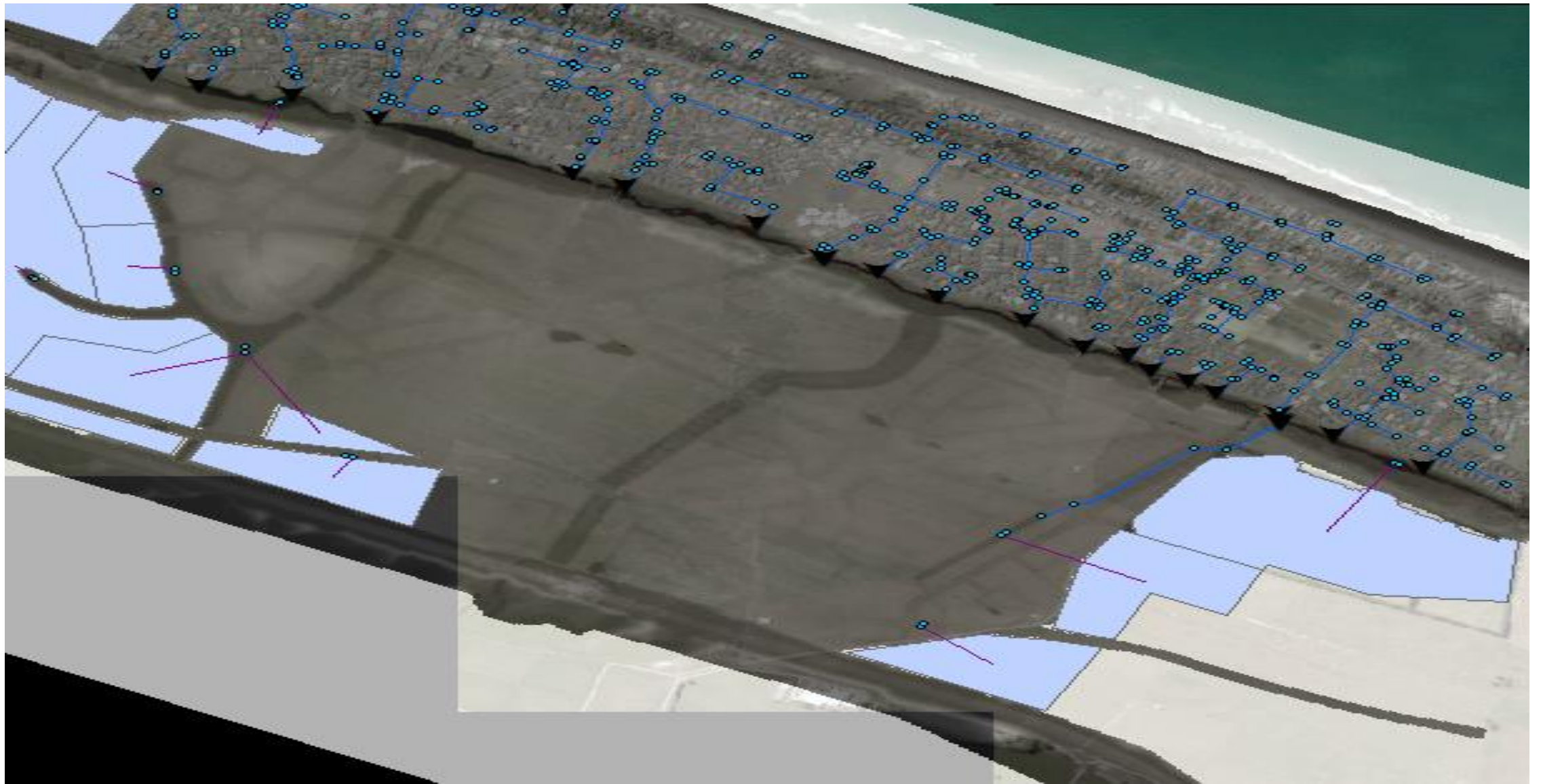


2017



Updating the Model

- ▶ In particular Council engineers were keen to test out developers landforms before they have been earth-worked.





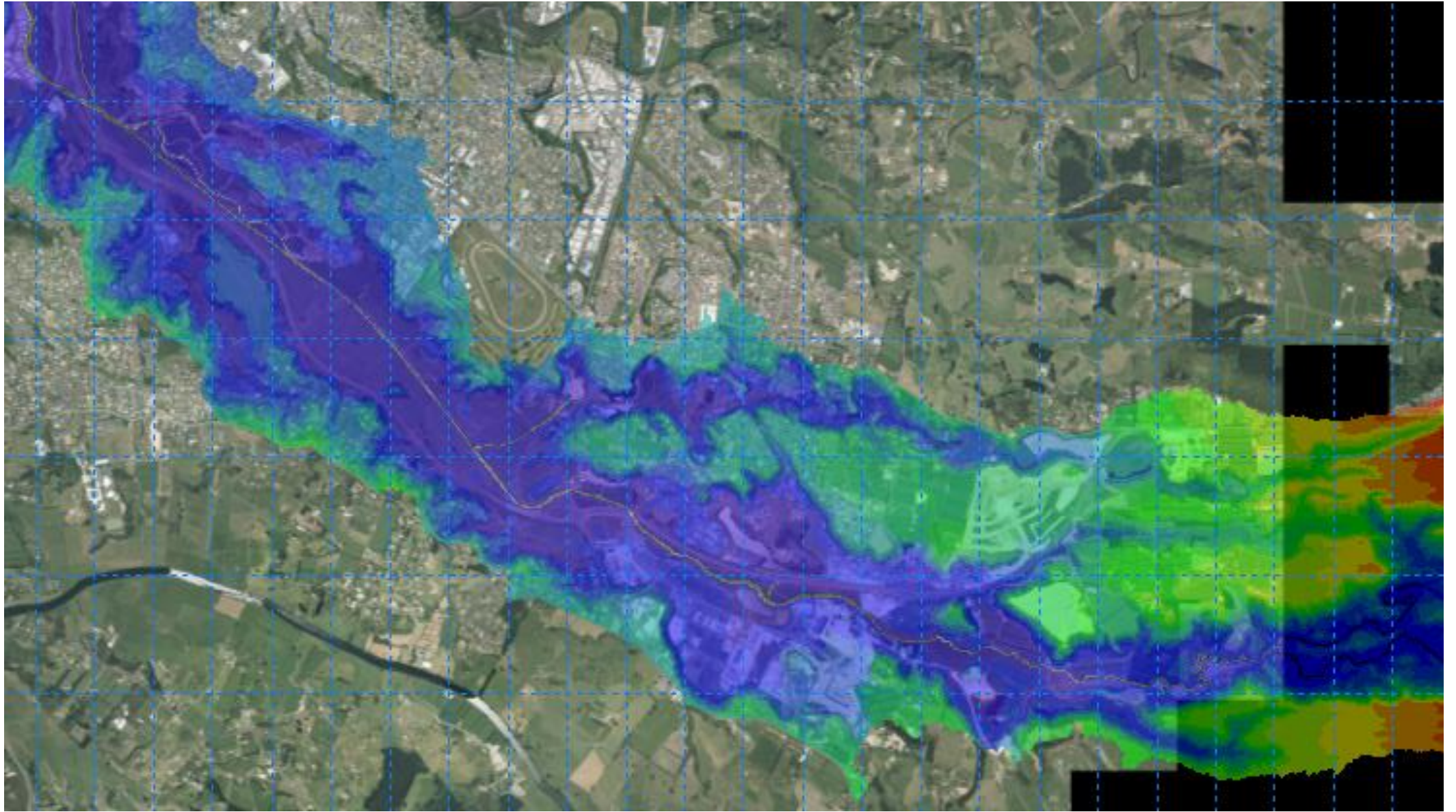
► This has helped guide

- Swale and culvert sizes;
- Building platform levels especially in areas distant from the receiving Wairakei Stream.




An aerial photograph of a landscape, likely a catchment area, overlaid with a blue grid. A large, irregularly shaped area is highlighted with a color gradient from dark purple to light green, indicating different levels of a variable such as elevation or vegetation. The background is a dark, textured map of the same area.

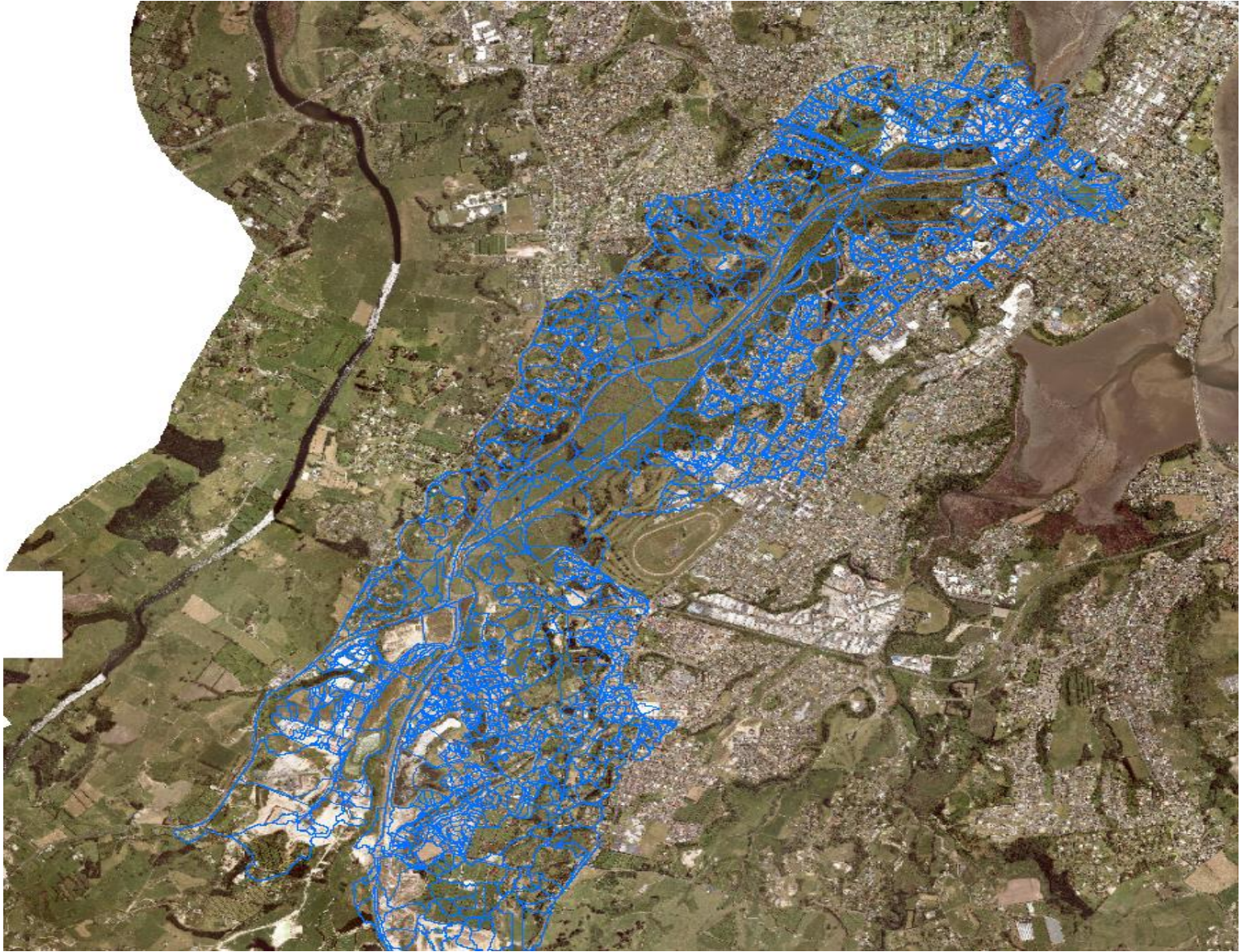
Catchment 4 - Kopurererua Stream




- ▶ Large catchment stretching from the Kaimais to the harbour;
- ▶ Major development is occurring in the catchment (On the left driving out from Tauranga up the Kaimais towards Hamilton);

- 
- ▶ Quite different from the first 3 catchments:
 - Hilly rather than flat;
 - Ash soils rather than sand;
 - Large rural upper catchment.
 - ▶ But Similar to Papamoa in that it is growing rapidly:
 - Tauriko industrial area;
 - ‘The Lakes’ residential area.

- ▶ Due to steep terrain hydrology was not modelled via rain on grid;
- ▶ Instead flows were calculated for a large number of sub-catchments which were then loaded onto the 2d surface terrain;
- ▶ Surface changes due to earthworks are therefore not as problematic as per rain on grid model described earlier.



- ▶ However the modeller for this catchment was not aware of consent conditions applying to this catchment;
- ▶ Key features of the future development scenario were therefore missed from the model;

- 
- ▶ Consented future floodplain filling was not incorporated into the model;
 - ▶ Consented mitigation measures were also missed from the model including:
 - A dam;
 - A large overflow area from the stream;
 - Attenuation ponds.


- ▶ This is an example of a catchment in which not enough detail was put into modelling the MPD scenario

Conclusions

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect. The word "Conclusions" is centered on the left side in a clean, sans-serif font.

Conclusions

- ▶ The amount of detail to include in modelling the MPD scenario varies from catchment to catchment;
- ▶ Sometimes a simpler approach is better (e.g. Papamoa West);
- ▶ But sometimes missing consented future works in the catchment can be crucial (e.g. Kopurererua Stream catchment);

- 
- ▶ Future development models usually account quite well for:
 - Sea level rise;
 - Climate change;
 - Increased imperviousness as per planning zones.
 - ▶ However future development models can struggle to account for:
 - Landform changes due to earthworks (especially problematic with rain on grid models);
 - Future consented changes to the catchment.

- ▶ Models can and should be updated and used as much as possible - e.g. testing developers design landforms;
- ▶ Modellers, Planners and Engineers need to keep talking.



Thank you for listening

Any questions?

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