



"Where will our knowledge take you?"



# Flood Modelling Using GPU Hardware

12D Conference  
Brisbane, Australia  
Chris Huxley

# Presentation Overview

## 1. What is GPU?

## 2. How does the new GPU solver compare to the existing CPU Solver?

## 3. Example Applications

- High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment
- Whole of Catchment Modelling
- Flood Forecasting

## 4. Questions

What is  
GPU?

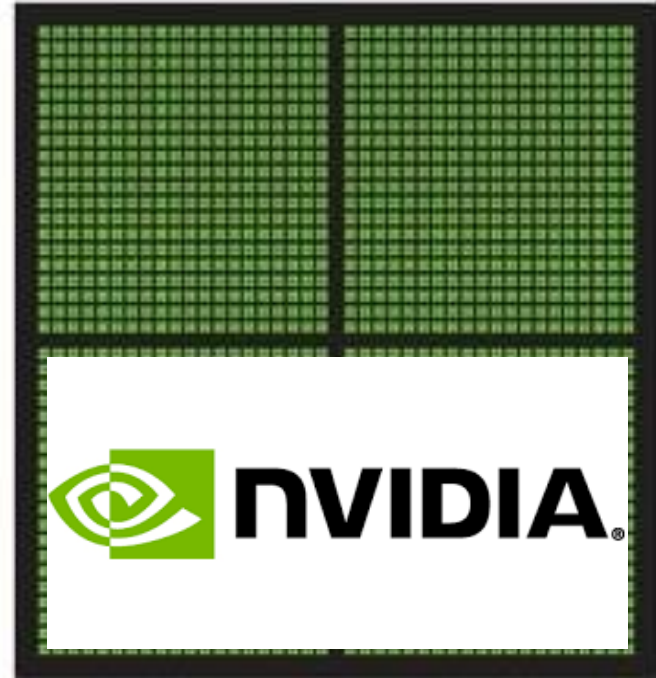
1

# What is GPU?

## Graphics Processing Unit

Traditionally used for graphics visualisation  
Now used for scientific compute too

- Accelerated hardware development since 2000
- Parallel computing is used to achieve computation gains
- **TUFLOW is NVIDIA GPU compatible (not AMD)**
- We support multiple GPU cards
- 10 - 100 simulation speed up compared to CPU



# What is GPU?

## Graphics Processing Unit

Are all GPU cards equal?

**NO**

<https://wiki.tuflow.com>

- Hardware benchmarking
- GPU modelling guidance

### TUFLOW Set-up and use

#### TUFLOW

- How to install TUFLOW
- How to configure a licence
- How to build a TUFLOW model (tutorials)
- How to run a TUFLOW model
- Free pre/post-processing utilities



#### TUFLOW Benchmarks

- TUFLOW Solution Accuracy Benchmarks
- Computer Hardware Speed Benchmarks
- Computer Hardware Speed Benchmarks - New 2018 Release Version

#### Best Practice Guidance

- Webinar Recordings
- Other Useful Modelling Guidance

How does  
the GPU and  
CPU solvers  
compare?

2

# TUFLOW HPC (GPU Module)

## Solution Scheme

### Explicit, Finite Volume shock capturing solution

- Better suited to parallelisation than implicit schemes (Classic)

### 4<sup>th</sup> order in time, Runge-Kutta integration solution

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Order in space the default

- Same spatial order and cell design as Classic

### Adaptive timestep design

- Courant number
- Wave celerity number
- Diffusion number

### Unconditional stability

- Exceptionally stable >> user beware 😊

defaults

$$N_u = \max\left(\frac{|u|\Delta t}{\Delta x}, \frac{|v|\Delta t}{\Delta y}\right) \leq 1.0$$

$$N_c = \max\left(\frac{\sqrt{gh}\Delta t}{\Delta x}, \frac{\sqrt{gh}\Delta t}{\Delta y}\right) \leq 1.0$$

$$N_d = \max\left(\frac{\nu_T\Delta t}{\Delta x^2}, \frac{\nu_T\Delta t}{\Delta y^2}\right) \leq 0.3$$

# Classic vs HPC

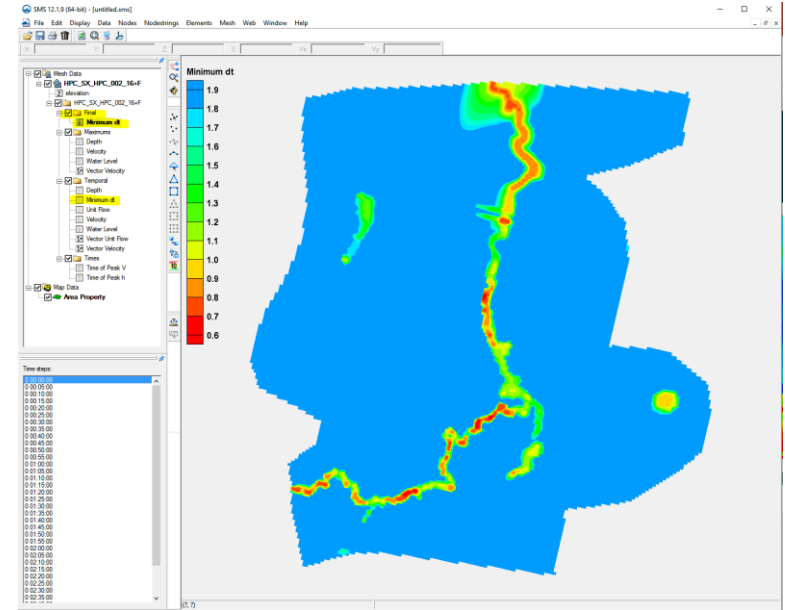
## Beware of the stability!

## Classic (CPU)

- Can go unstable (as we all know!) due to matrix solution not converging
- Instabilities highlight bad data / poor model setup and force the modeller to fix models

## HPC (GPU)

- VERY VERY stable and has zero mass error
- This may hide poor data or poor model set up (accidental boundary condition or topography errors)
- Use 'dt' output with check files to review location of minimum limiting timestep

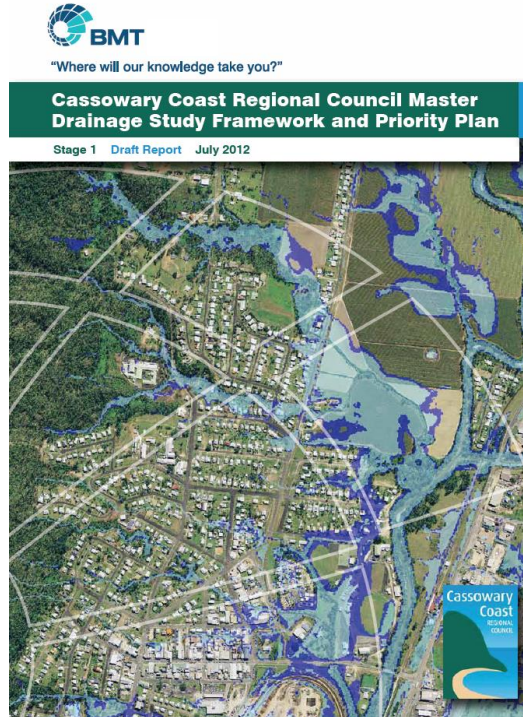




# Example Applications

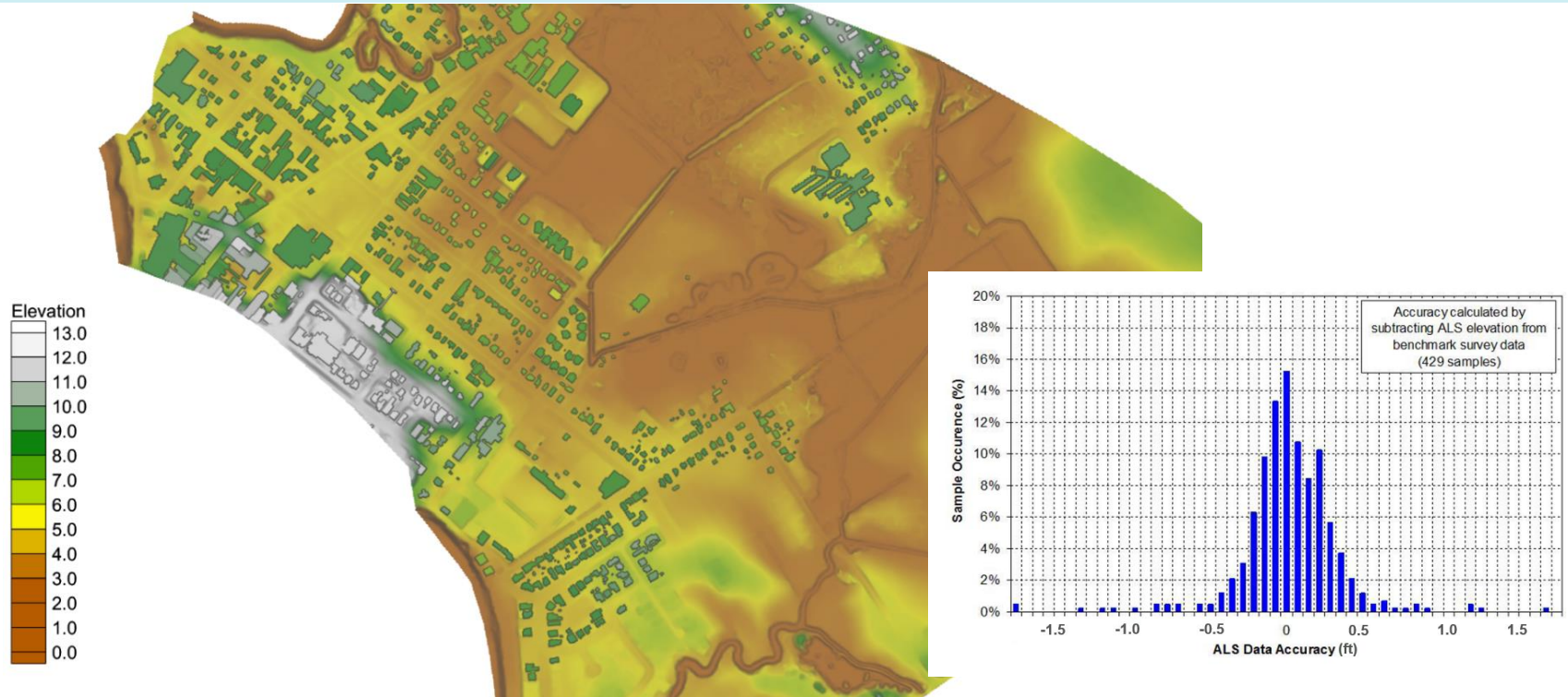
3

# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment Council Master Drainage Study



Cardwell  
Innisfail CBD  
Innisfail East  
Innisfail Estate  
Mission Beach  
Mourilyan  
Silkwood  
South Johnston  
Tully  
Tully Heads / Hull Heads

# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment Topography Data



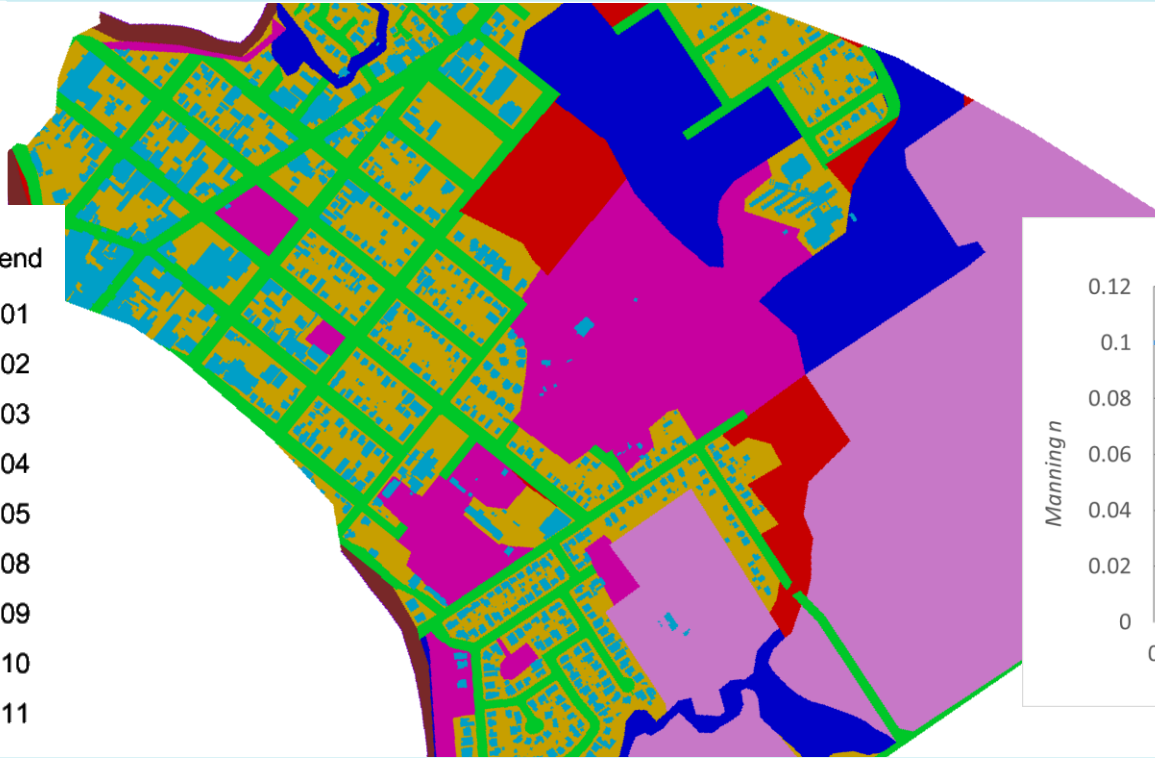
# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment Stormwater Pipe Network



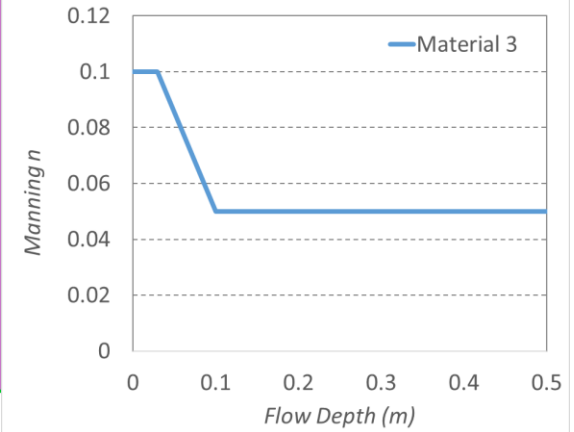
# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment

## Landuse / Data

Materials Legend



Depth Varying Manning n





# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment

## Direct Rainfall Approach



Inundation is mapped when depth exceeds 0.1m

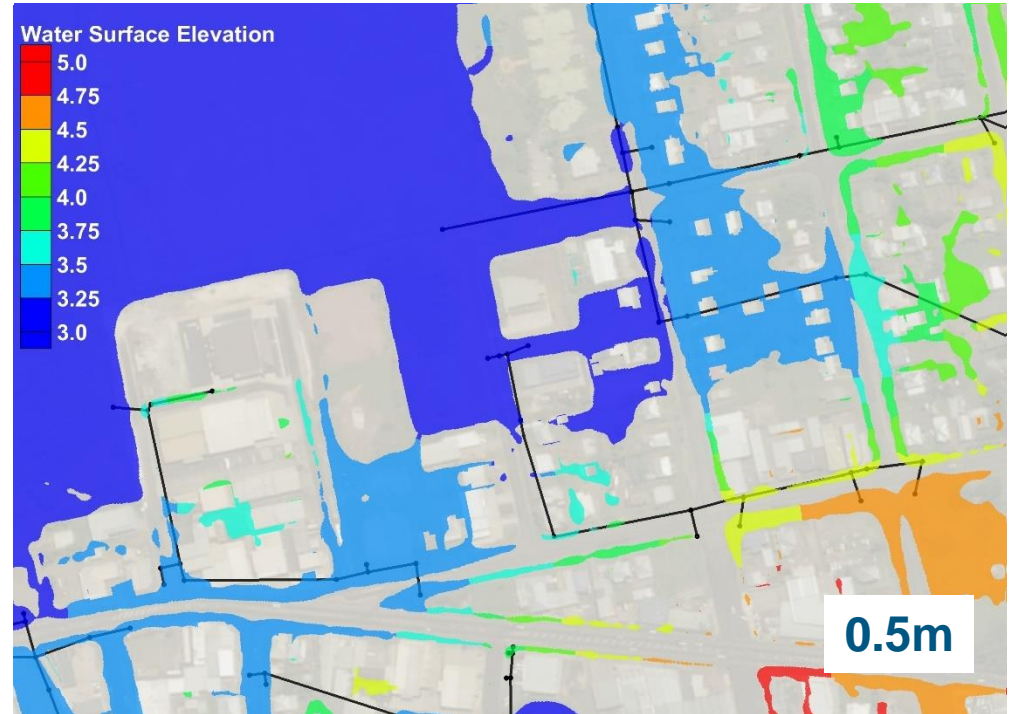
# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment

## What Matters?

### What 2D model resolution...

How fine for urban situations?

- 20m 7,500 cells
- 10m 31,000 cells
- 5m 125,000 cells
- 2m 750,000 cells
- 1m 3,100,000 cells
- 0.5m 12,500,000 cells









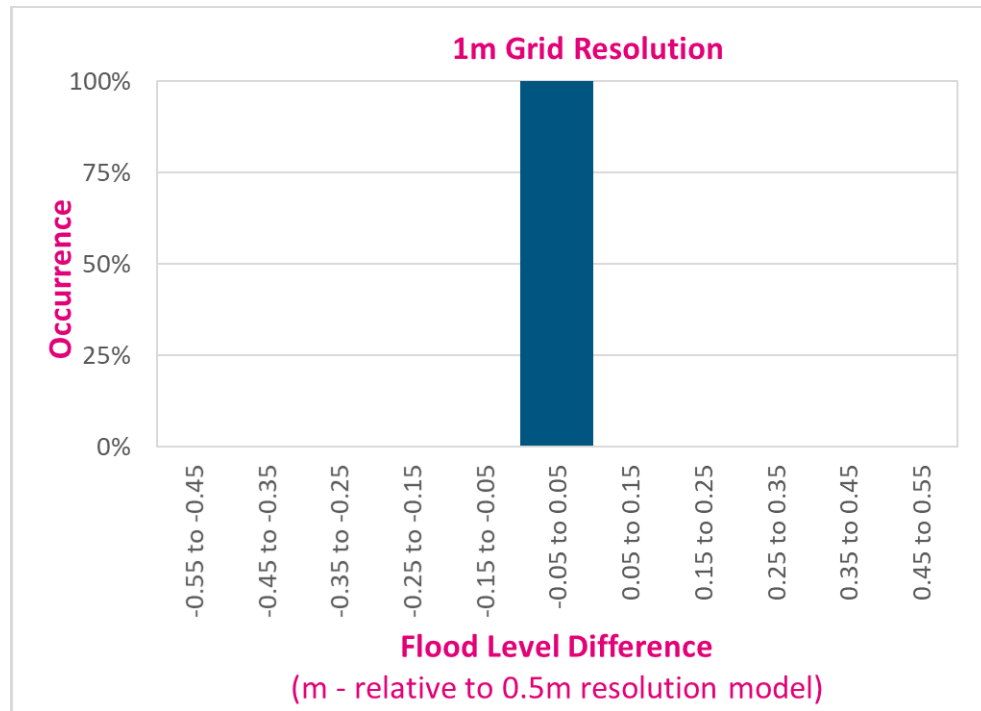
# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment

## What Matters?

### What 2D model resolution...

How fine for urban situations?

- 20m  7,500 cells
- 10m  31,000 cells
- 5m  125,000 cells
- 2m  750,000 cells
- 1m  3,100,000 cells
- 0.5m  12,500,000 cells





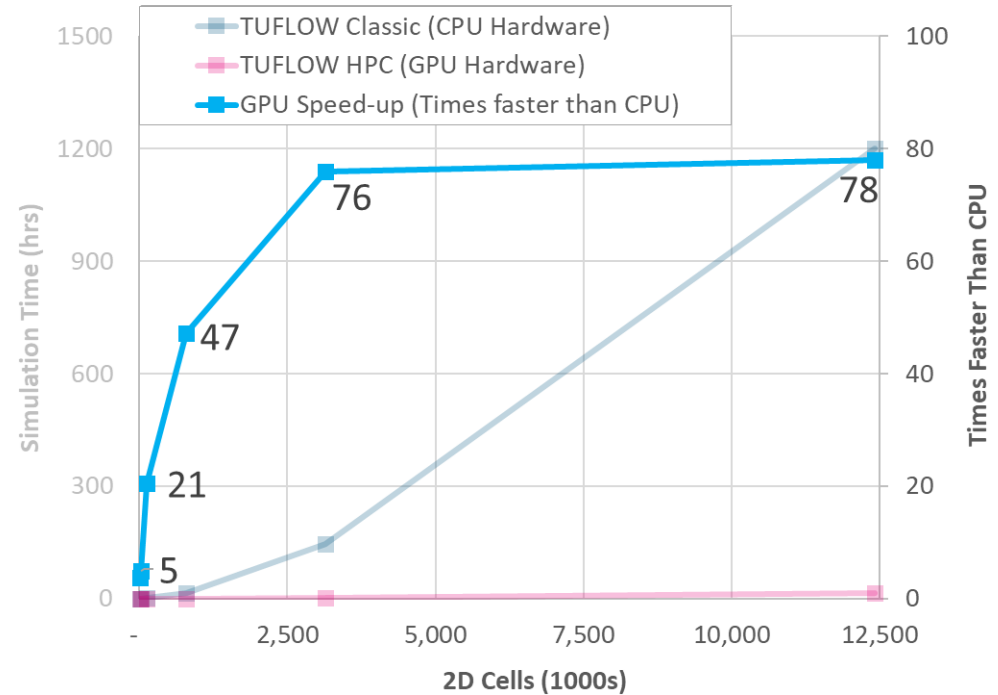
# High Resolution 1D/2D Urban Assessment

## What Matters?

### Solver/Hardware Comparison

Simulation speed

	CPU	GPU
• 20m	0:12 hr	0:03 hr
• 10m	0:15 hr	0:03 hr
• 5m	1:32 hr	0:05 hr
• 2m	15:19 hr	0:20 hr
• 1m	14:40 hr	1:55 hr
• 0.5m	≈48 days	18.30 hr



# Bundaberg Non-Urban Overland Mapping Study

## Catchment Scale Modelling



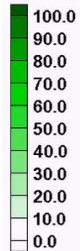
# Bundaberg Non-Urban Overland Mapping Study

## Catchment Scale Modelling

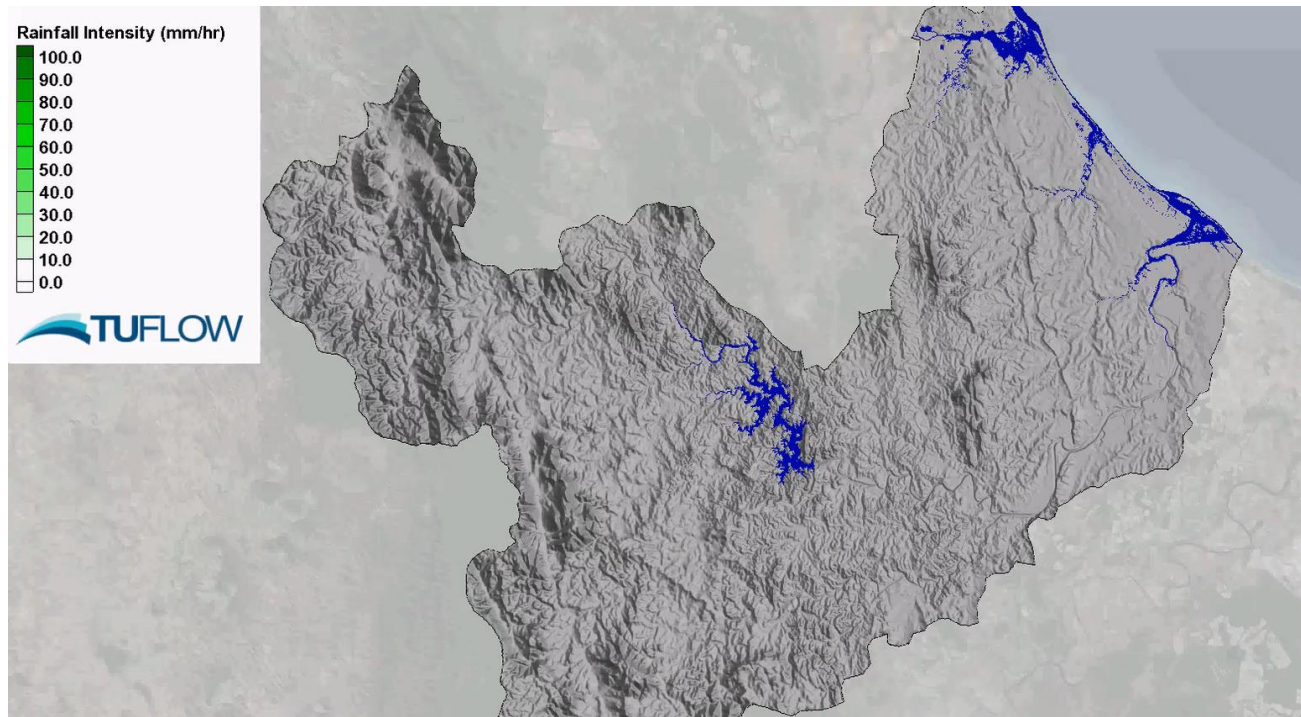
- 7,000 km<sup>2</sup> area
- 15m cell size
- 6 durations
- 1% AEP existing + future climate

Duration	Percentage of area where critical
10min	1.4%
20min	29.17%
30min	2.15%
1hr	24.96%
2hr	11.48%
6hr	2.2%
12hr	6.92%
24hr	9.49%
48hr	3.47%
72hr	8.76%

Rainfall Intensity (mm/hr)



 TUFLOW



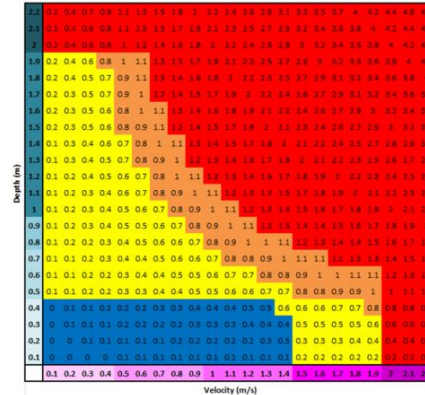
# Bundaberg Non-Urban Overland Mapping Study

## Catchment Scale Modelling

- 7,000 km<sup>2</sup> area
- 15m cell size
- 6 durations
- 1% AEP existing + future climate

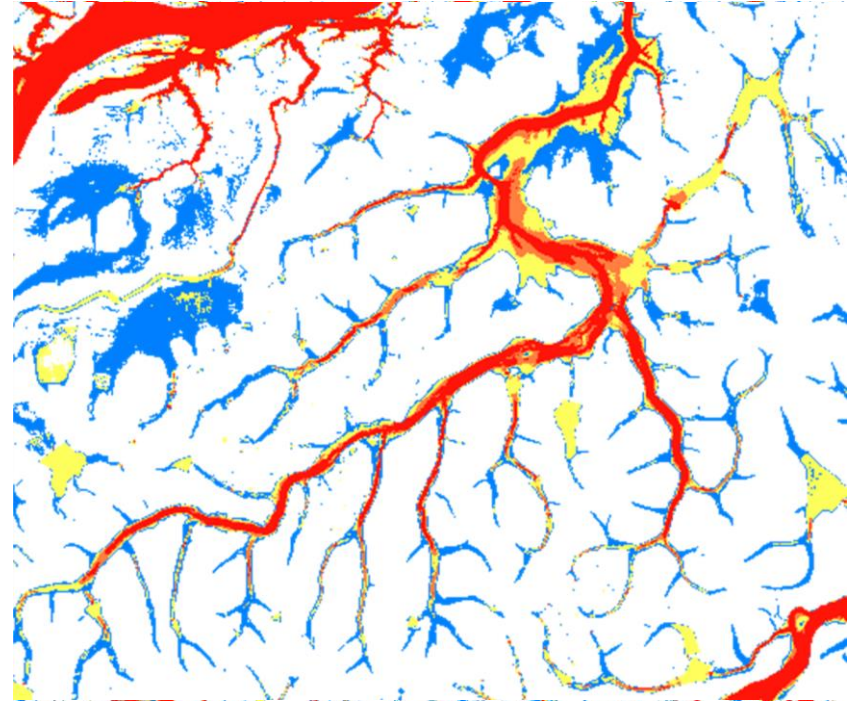
Duration	Percentage of area where critical
10min	1.4%
20min	29.17%
30min	2.15%
1hr	24.96%
2hr	11.48%
6hr	2.2%
12hr	6.92%
24hr	9.49%
48hr	3.47%
72hr	8.76%

>30,000,000 2D cells



Extreme Hazard  
High Hazard  
Significant Hazard  
Low Hazard

	Low	Significant	High	Extreme
Depth	<0.5	<2	<2	2+
Velocity	<1.5	<2	<2	2+
D x V Product	<0.6	0.6 to <0.8	0.8 to <1.2	1.2+



# Real-time Flood Forecasting





# Real-time Flood Forecasting

- Automated flood forecasting using Google Cloud GPU hardware
- NOAA rainfall forecast data
- Direct rainfall TUFLOW hydraulic simulation
- Real-time bridge inundation risk results are uploaded to a DoT website

