


CATCHMENT MODELLING

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A guide to runoff estimation




CATCHMENT MODELLING

Recognised as an important component of generating information necessary for catchment management.

Typically used for extrapolation to

- New locations (i.e. ungauged); or
- New catchment conditions.

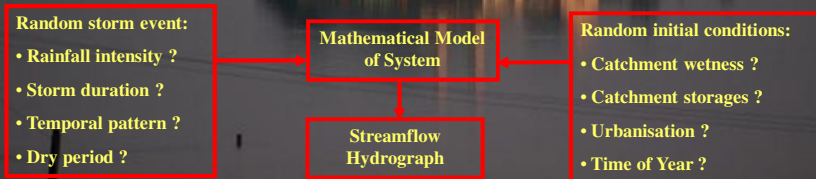


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FRAMEWORK

Need flow estimates and associated probabilities

- Issues
Uncertainty in prediction.
Absence of data – PUB problem
Extrapolation.
- Scope
Range of frequencies.
Range of catchment scale.
Points and network systems.
Changing catchments.
- Estimation Methodology



CONCEPTS

Catchment modelling systems are not replications of the real catchments but rather are a simplification of the real system.

In general, the simplification takes the form of a mathematical representation of the many physical processes.

CONCEPTS

Catchment modelling uses a system of process models.

These process models are embedded in software.



CONCEPTS

Purpose of ARR is to provide guidance on

- Suitable process models
- Use of software
 - Parameter estimation
 - Prediction uncertainty

RECOMMENDATION for particular software products not included in ARR.




CONCEPTS

Discussion of process models conceptualised into

- Generation
- Collection
- Transport
- Disposal


Generation
↓
Collection
↓
Transport
↓
Disposal

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APPLICATION

Two important aspects are


- Different problems will require different simplifications – same complexity is not required for all problems.
- A catchment modelling system implemented for one problem may not be suitable for a different problem.

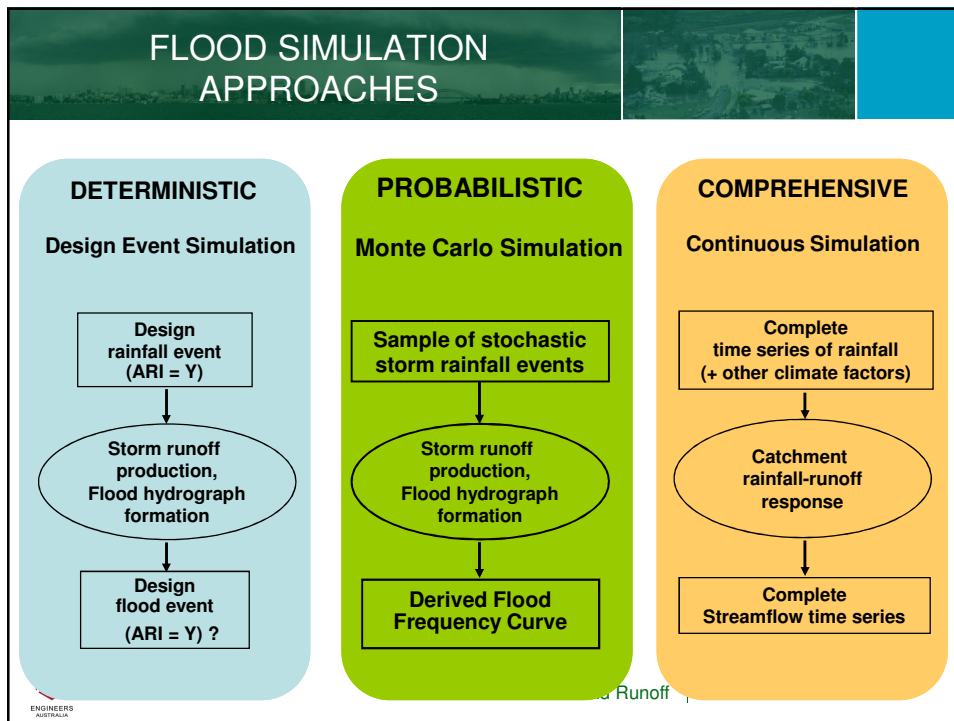
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APPLICATION

Guidance on application is being provided for

- Event Modelling – most commonly used approach.
- Continuous Modelling – generate flow sequences and then use FFA.
- Monte-Carlo techniques – used to overcome some issues with parameter estimation.


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EVENT SIMULATION

Traditional approach.

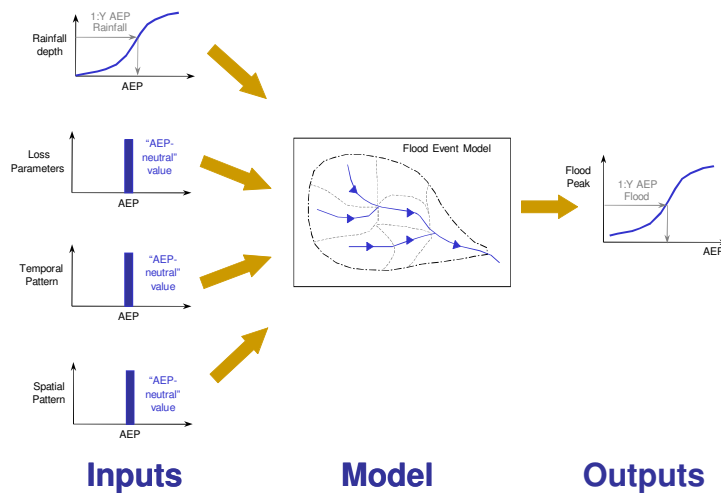
Issues include

- Volume of runoff, particularly when most intense burst used, i.e. existing AR&R temporal patterns.
- Storm variability and movement.

Guidance will be provided on usage.



DESIGN EVENT APPROACH



CONTINUOUS MODELS

Basic idea is the reproduction of flow variability in the system.

To achieve this requires consideration of parameter or information variability.

Also removes the need to assume concurrence between rainfall and flow frequencies.



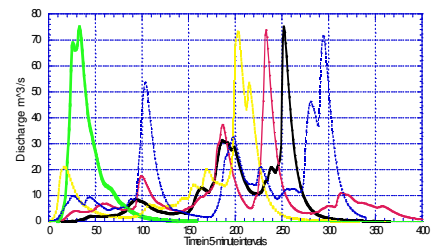
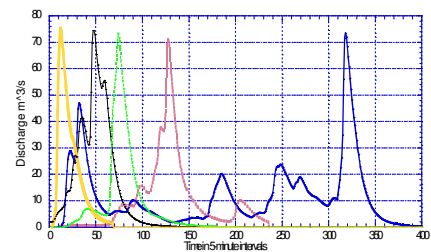
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CONTINUOUS MODELS

2 year ARI events extracted from 100 years of simulated flows

Differences in shape (one, two and three-peaked h/gs, duration and volume (ranging from 41 to 223 mm)

No such thing as a 2-year hydrograph




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MONTE-CARLO APPROACH

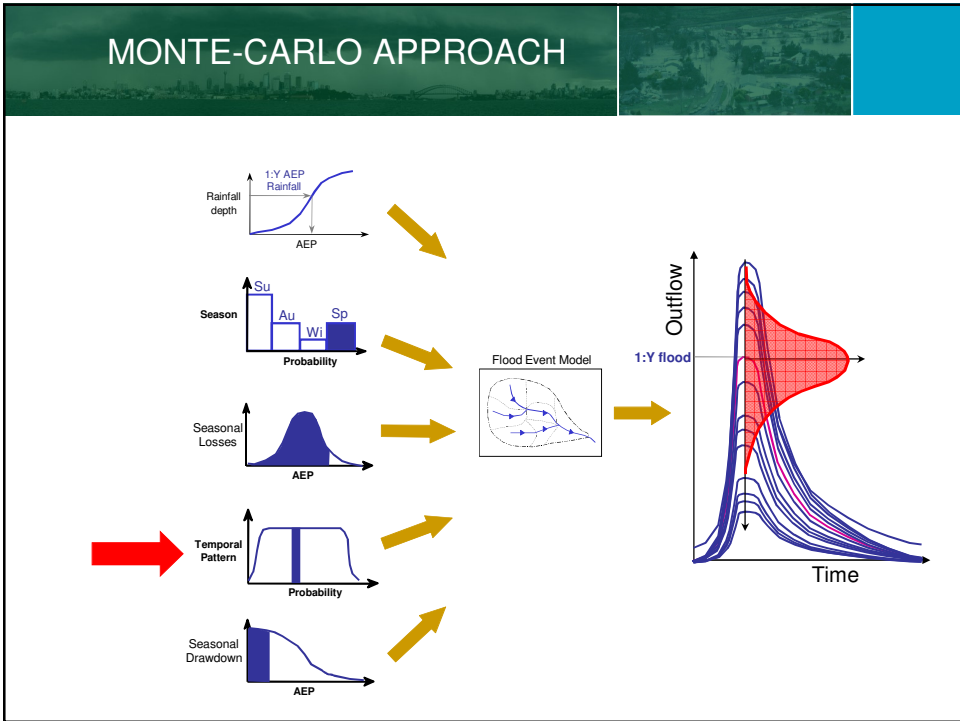
Based on development of event modelling.

Needs information about variability of input parameters.

Produces distribution of likely flood events and hence uncertainty in prediction.




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APPLICATION

Steps in the application are

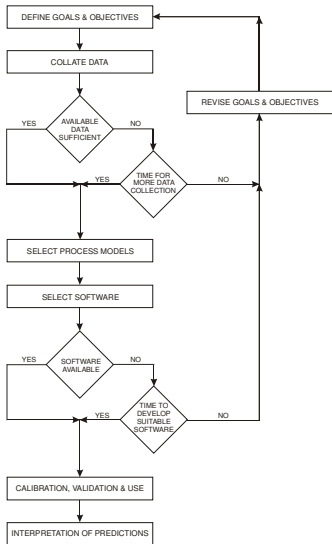
- Definition of goals and objectives;
- Collation of data;
- Selection of process models;
- Selection of software;
- System use; and
- Interpretation of predictions



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APPLICATION

Note that there are loops in these steps.
For example, the unavailability of data may require a return to a previous step.



```

graph TD
    A[DEFINE GOALS & OBJECTIVES] --> B[COLLATE DATA]
    B --> C{AVAILABLE DATA SUFFICIENT?}
    C -- YES --> D[SELECT PROCESS MODELS]
    C -- NO --> E{TIME FOR MORE DATA COLLECTION?}
    E -- NO --> F[REVISE GOALS & OBJECTIVES]
    F --> A
    E -- YES --> D
    D --> G[SELECT SOFTWARE]
    G --> H{SOFTWARE AVAILABLE?}
    H -- YES --> I[CALIBRATION, VALIDATION & USE]
    H -- NO --> J{TIME TO DEVELOP SUITABLE SOFTWARE?}
    J -- NO --> F
    J -- YES --> I
    I --> K[INTERPRETATION OF PREDICTIONS]
    
```



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APPLICATION

The volume of data required varies in direct proportion to the complexity of the problem and the desired accuracy of information

It may be necessary to implement a data collection program if suitable existing data are not available.



APPLICATION

Within this step, the generic steps are

- Establishment (includes verification of software);
- Calibration;
- Validation; and
- Production



CALIBRATION

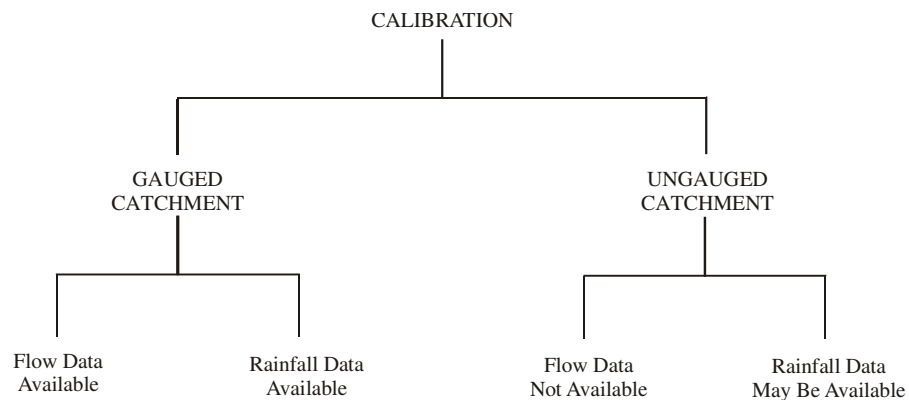
The primary purpose of this step is the evaluation of the control parameters for the catchment modelling system.

Evaluation of control parameters is required for

- Gauged; and
- Ungauged catchments.



CALIBRATION



UNGAUGED CATCHMENTS

Calibration of control parameters for ungauged parameters is the most common problem encountered.

Values may be determined from

- Physical characteristics
- Regional relationships



UNGAUGED CATCHMENTS

As in previous edition, regional relationships will be presented.

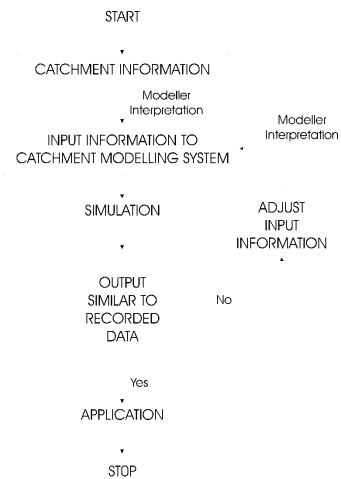
Guidance on reliability will be published also.



CALIBRATION

The calibration process is one of systematically adjusting the control parameter values until satisfactory reproduction is achieved.

This systematic adjustment may be manual or it may be automatic.



CALIBRATION

Calibrated control parameter values for one event or sequence of events may not be applicable to a second event or series of events.

The calibrated control parameter values are a compromise.

Need to ensure that this compromise is robust for extrapolation of the system.



VALIDATION

Validation is obtained by testing the catchment modelling system response to previously unseen data and assessing the accuracy and uncertainty of the predictions.



INTREPRETATION

Most important step.

While guidance can and will be provided with interpretation, AR&R cannot tell a modeller how to interpret their results.


Guidance will focus on prediction accuracy and uncertainty.



ISSUES

Issues associated with catchment modelling include


- Rainfall
- Loss Models
- Parameter Estimation
- Rainfall



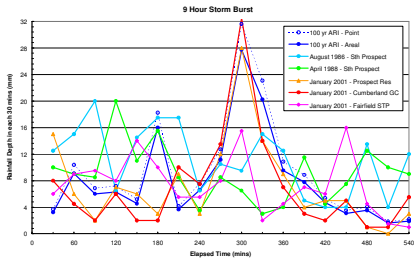
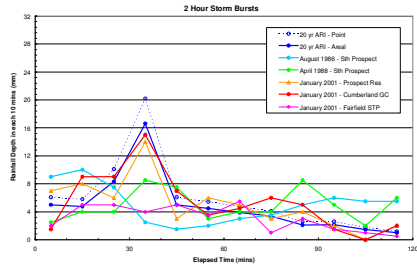
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RAINFALL ISSUES

- Spatial patterns
- Temporal patterns
- Partial catchment storms
- Areal Reduction Factors

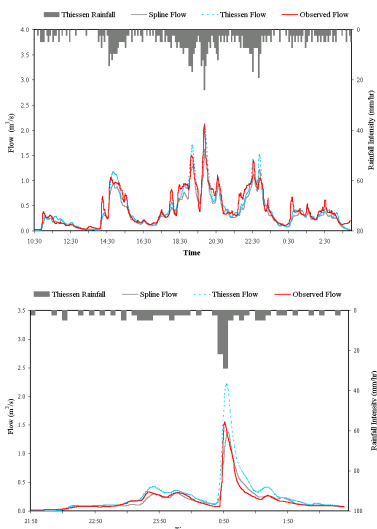


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RAINFALL INFLUENCE

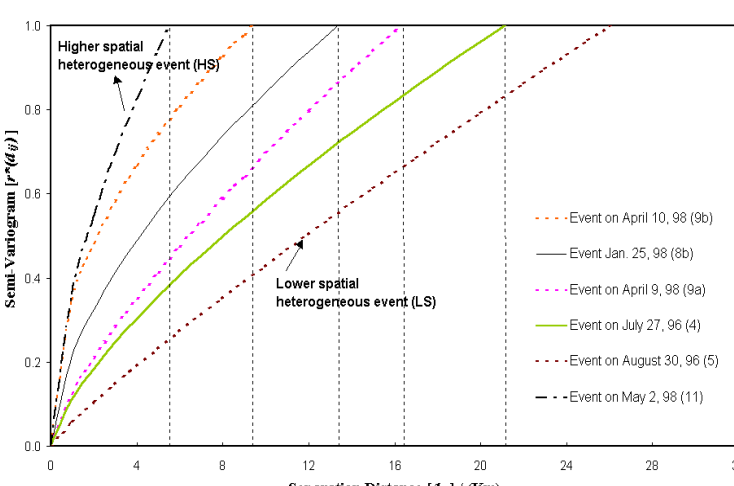
- Calibrated catchment model considered.
- Only change between alternatives was rainfall applied.
- Need to consider storm characteristics.



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RAINFALL INFLUENCE

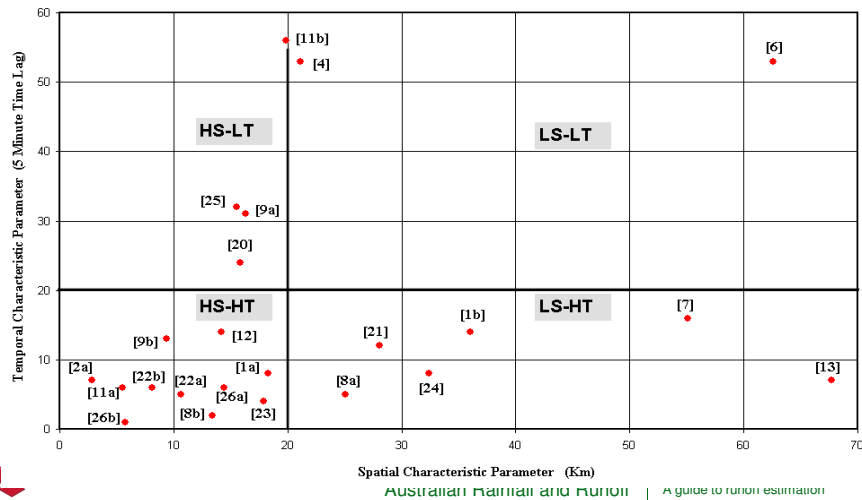
UPRC Variogram



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RAINFALL INFLUENCE

UPRC Characterisation



LOSS MODELS

- For event modelling, there is a need to recognise difference between design and calibration losses.
 - Calibration losses represent actual losses
 - Design losses represent design parameters
- Hill *et al.* have developed IL/CL design data
- Walsh developed IL data



LOSS MODELS

- For continuous modelling, need to consider formulation of model
 - Parameter consistency
 - Dry period / wet period interaction

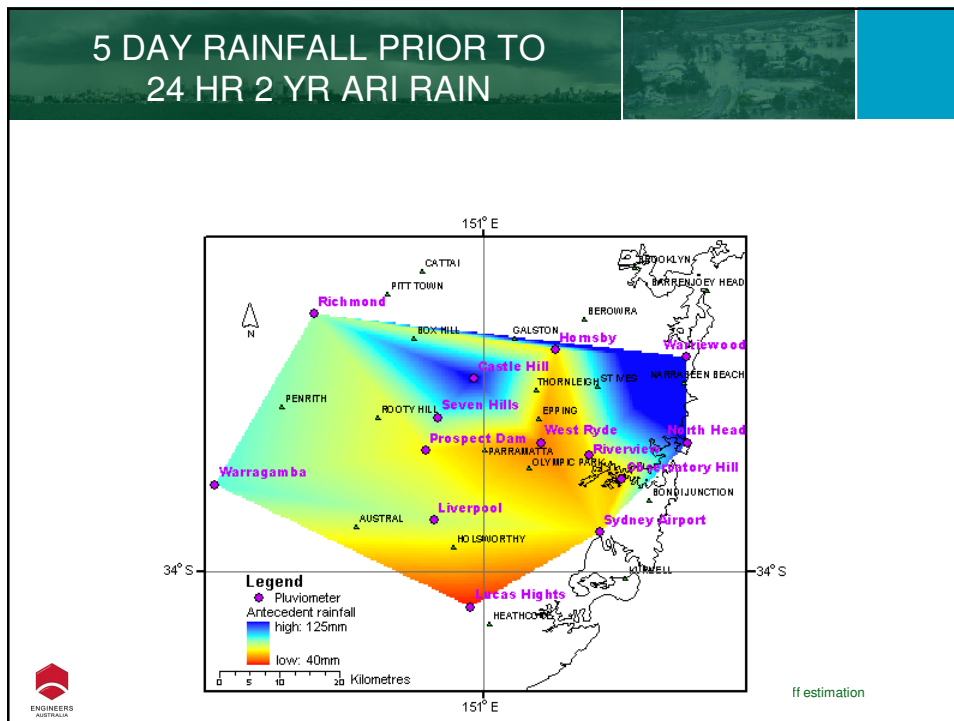
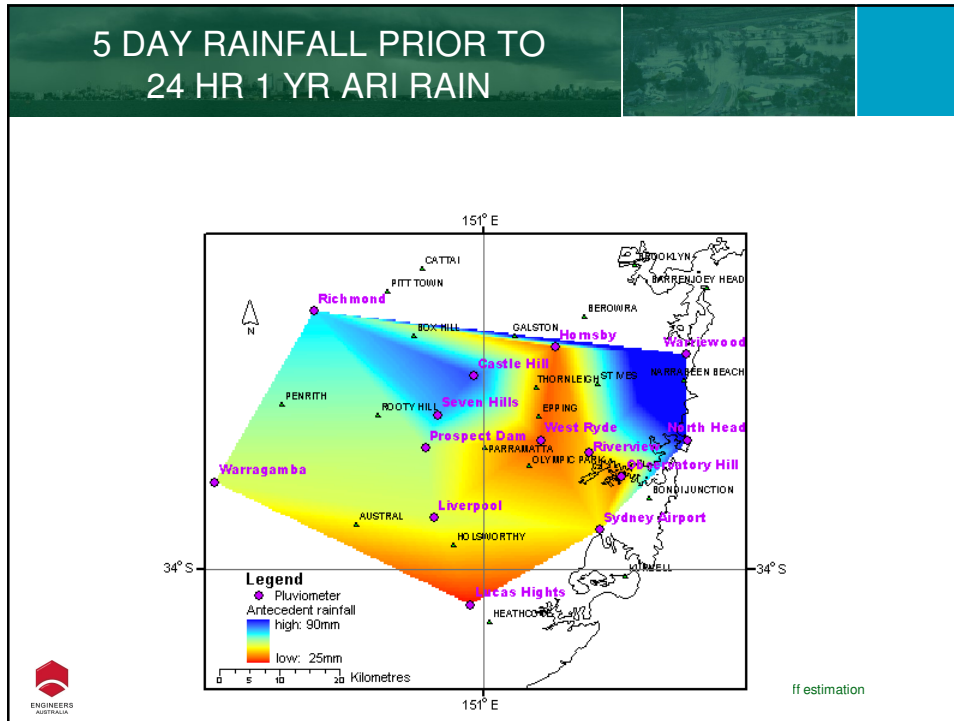
AMC	EFF. IMP. %
< 2 dry days	43.9
2 - 5 dry days	43.6
6 - 10 dry days	35.2
> 10 dry days	35.7

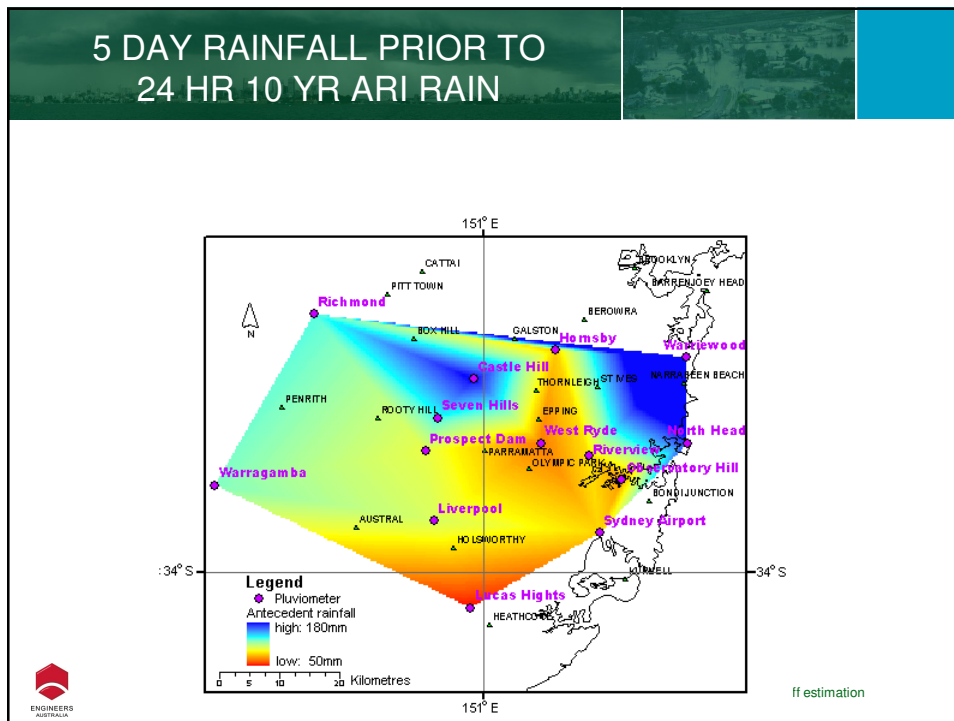
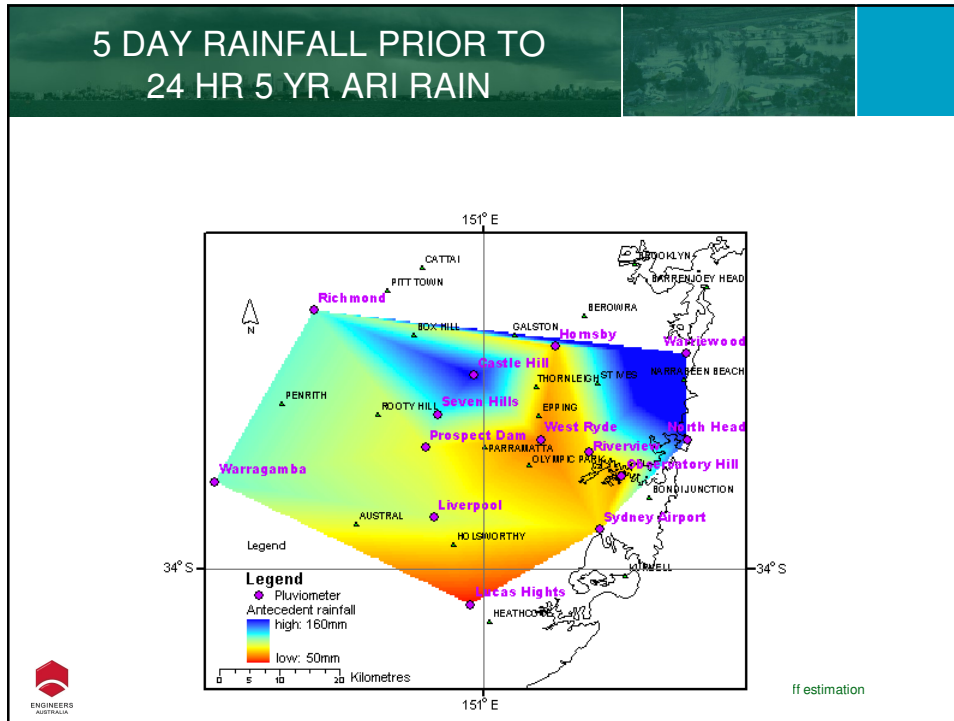


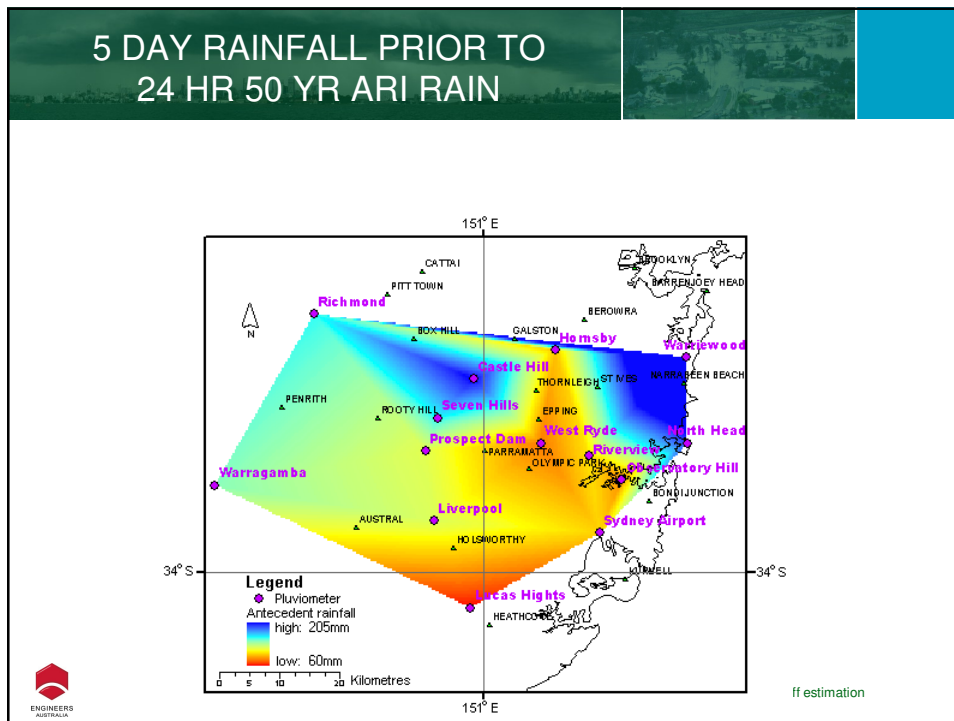
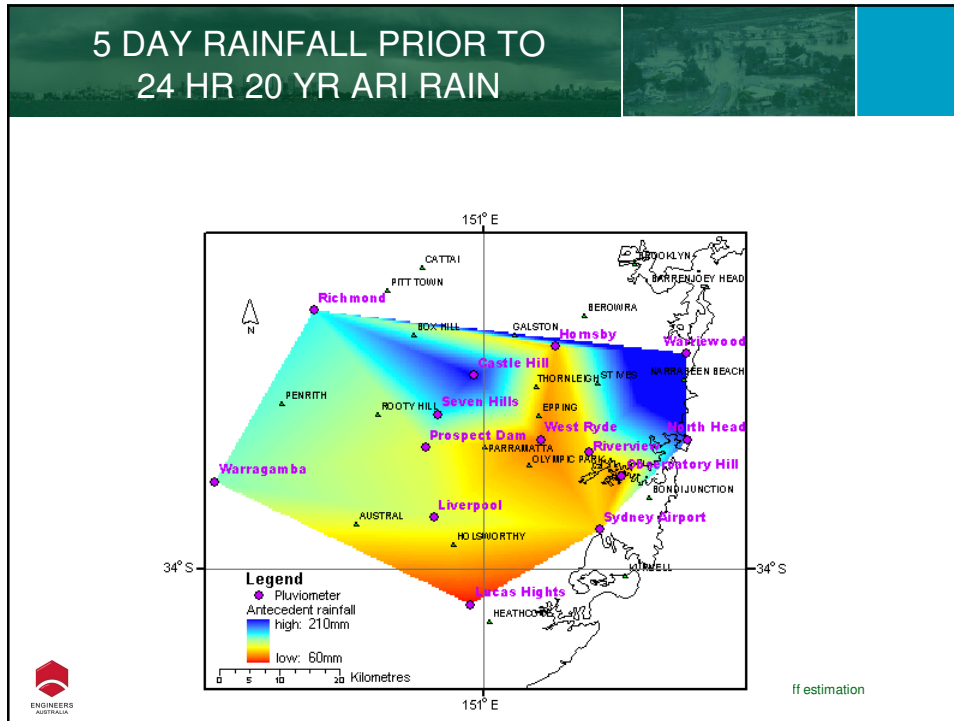
LOSS MODELS

- For event modelling there is a need also to consider the antecedent conditions
 - Needed for both Monte-Carlo and traditional approaches.

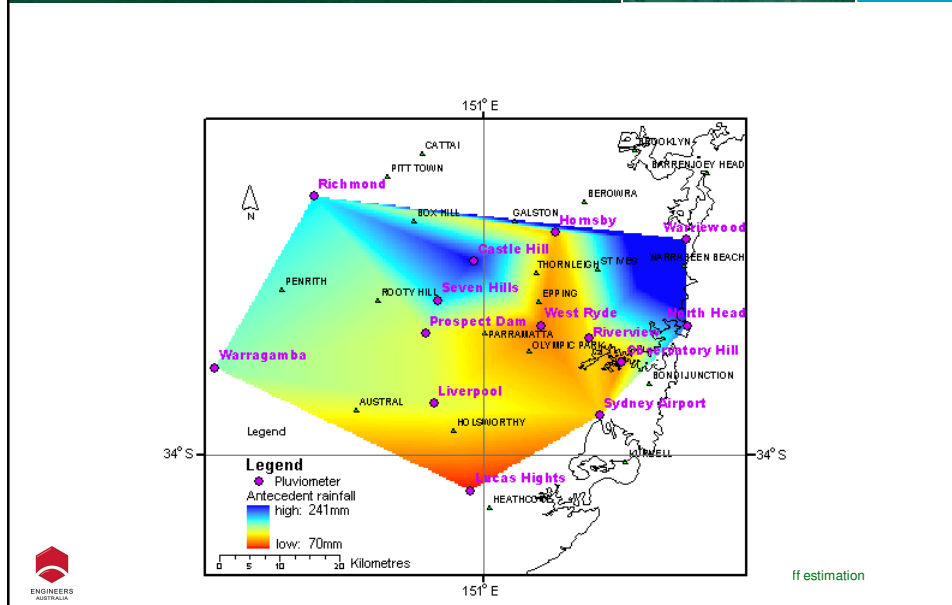








5 DAY RAINFALL PRIOR TO 24 HR 100 YR ARI RAIN



PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Errors arise from

- Structural errors in the system;
- Data errors in the recorded data; and
- Parameter errors - input information to the modelling system.

Calibration is concerned with **parameter errors** while acknowledging other errors.



PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Desire is **generic values** for these parameters – values applicable to more than a single event and suitable for extrapolation.

Recognised now that there are numerous sets of parameter values capable of similar performance.

Hence, a **pdf** of possible parameter values can be developed.



PARAMETER ESTIMATION

A further complication is the arbitrary subdivision of parameters into measured and inferred parameters.

Usually, only values of inferred are sought – values of measured parameters are assumed correct.

Ungauged catchments and inferred parameter values remain a major concern.

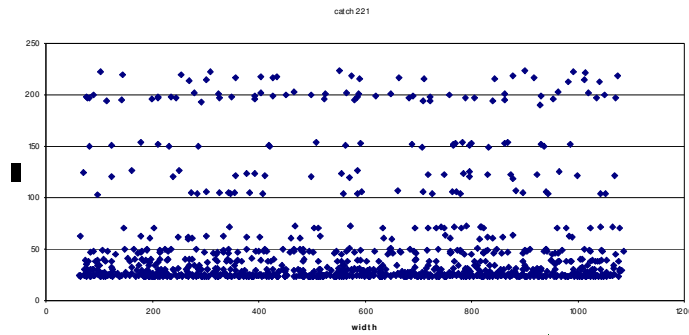


PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Inferred parameters are either

- Developed from a model – e.g. Manning's roughness
- Conceptual – e.g. k_c .

These parameters usually have flat response surfaces.



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PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Monitoring of the calibration is one approach.

The results of the monitoring is used to define 'stop points' for the calibration.

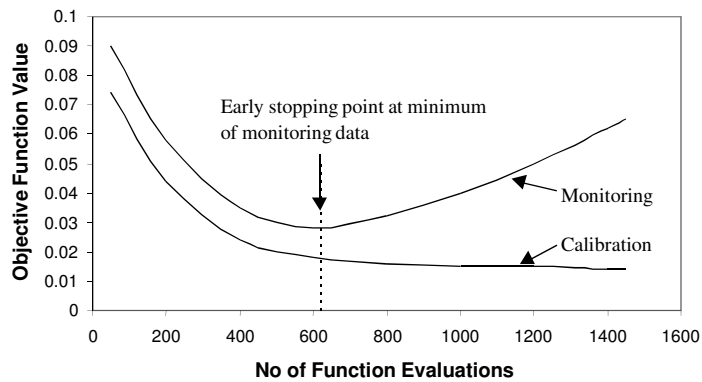
Will not result in best simulation for a single event but best simulation of numerous events.



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PARAMETER ESTIMATION

Early Stopping Technique



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JOINT PROBABILITIES

- Downstream boundary conditions
 - Tides
 - Storm surges
 - River / Lake levels when urban systems considered.



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