

# Joining the dots – monitoring under the RMA

Workshop session, NZPI – 29 September 2016

# Introduction

- Purpose
- People
- Topics today
  - Structure of monitoring requirements in RMA
  - Compliance and enforcement information gathering and decision making
  - Current information collation and practice for policy making

# Purpose

- Two main outcomes of this workshop:
  - Highlight how efficiency can be gained by thinking about policy outcomes, when designing monitoring programmes undertaken by in-house scientific teams and under consenting and compliance regimes
  - Highlight existing information that could be amalgamated and used to inform policy making going forward

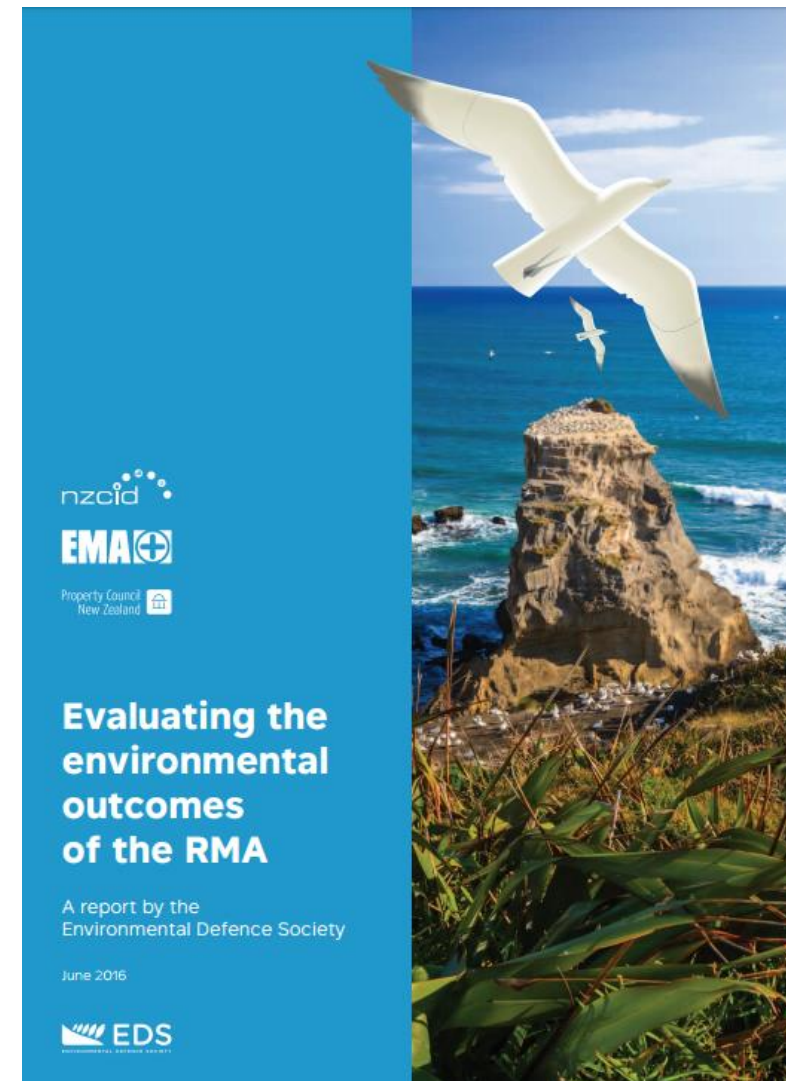
# Some background resources - QP

- What does QP say? (<http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/index.php/monitor/best-practice-monitoring>)
  - *The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) provide the basis for monitoring and signal that an integrated approach is required. **Ensure that your RMA monitoring is interlinked** - as well as being linked to broader monitoring of community outcomes being undertaken as part of the Long Term Planning process.*
  - ***Develop an integrated strategy or methodology for monitoring.** Think through all the steps that will be involved, who needs to be involved and how you'll resource it. Prioritise and start with what is most important.*

- *Monitoring is about checking that we want to achieve is being achieved and **having information available from which to make sound resource management decisions**. Monitoring can tell us about key pressures on the environment, the condition or state of the environment, and about responses (ie, the environmental results) that we are achieving, or need to work towards. **The design of a monitoring system** should focus attention on questions such as: how much information is enough, when is it needed and for what purposes?*

# Background reading - EDS

- How about the industry? EDS/EMA/NZCID/PCNZ  
(<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3114391/EDS-Evaluating-the-Environmental-Outcomes-of-the.pdf>)
- Topicality: “RMA failed to protect New Zealand”  
([http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=3&objectid=11717746](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11717746))
- *“While the RMA has brought together a lot of decision-making processes, **it could be more integrated**. There are still key exclusions that should be better joined up to enhance overall environmental outcomes.”*

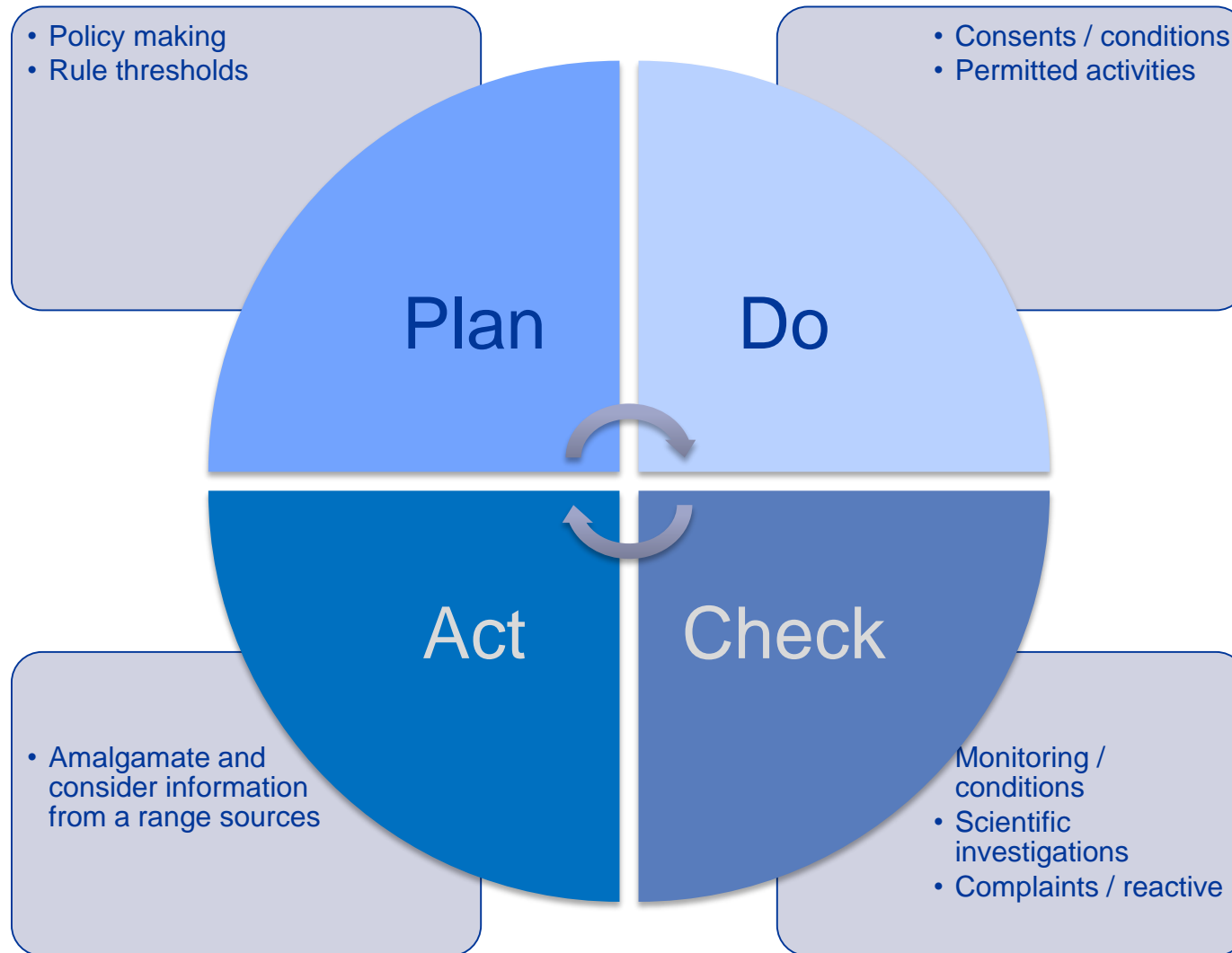




# Driving legislation

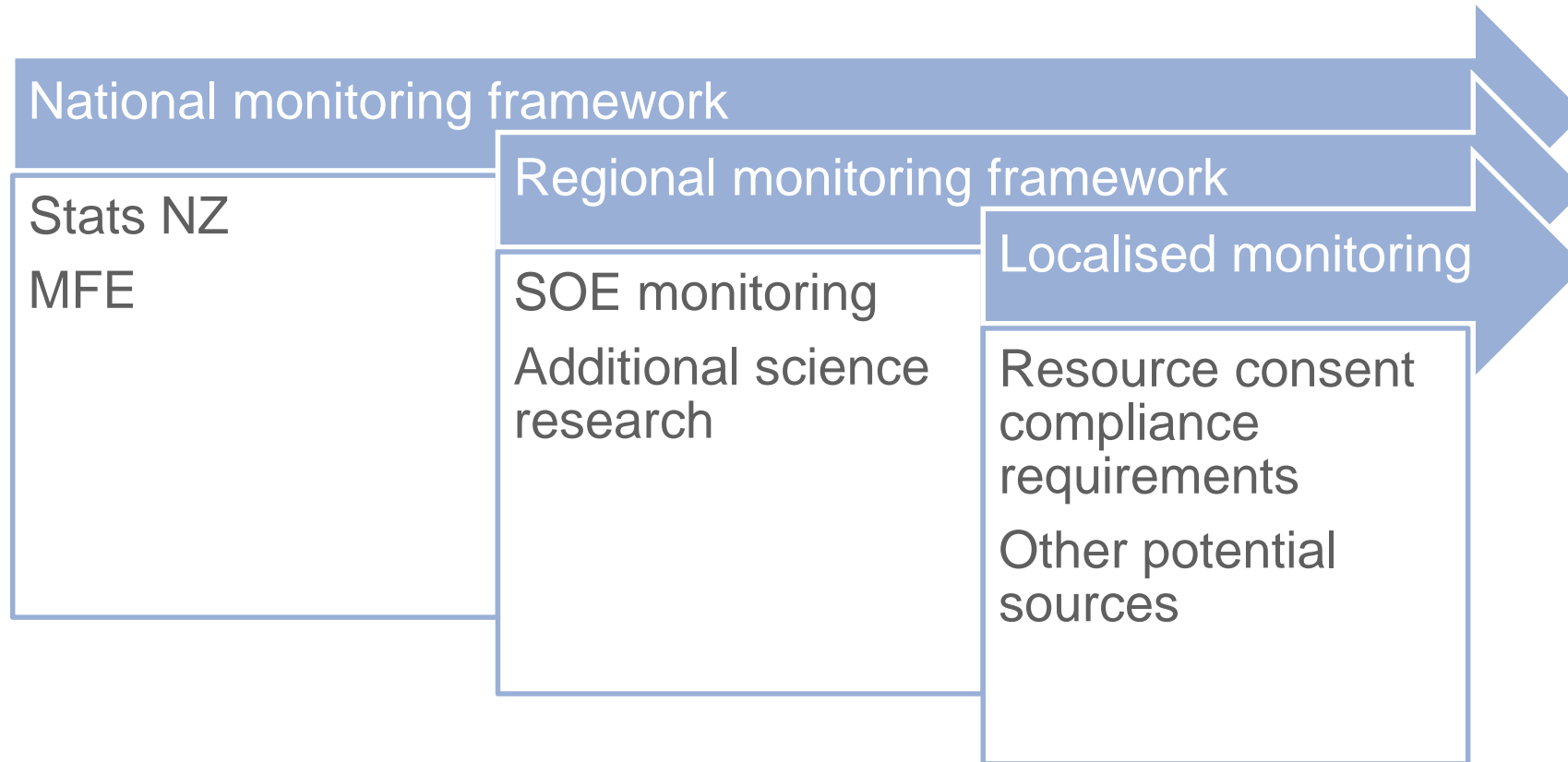
- RMA – S35(2)(a) and S35(2)(b)
  - SOE monitoring
  - Effectiveness reporting
  - Environmental science driven monitoring (from science teams such as AC's RIMU)
  - Consent conditions/compliance
- Consents – S108
  - Monitoring programmes and design here too!
- LGA and ERA

# The framework





# SOE/science monitoring



# Rule effectiveness review

- Links back to Objectives and Policies previously developed
- Back-casting – what can we do to better monitor the outcomes we sought to manage?
- Fore-casting – inform potential Objectives and Policies to better link to outcomes sought, to better inform how we approach monitoring in the future?

# LGA / LTP

- Inform funding model
- Set charge out rates, overall costs – recover appropriately
- Check that outcomes of the LTP are met

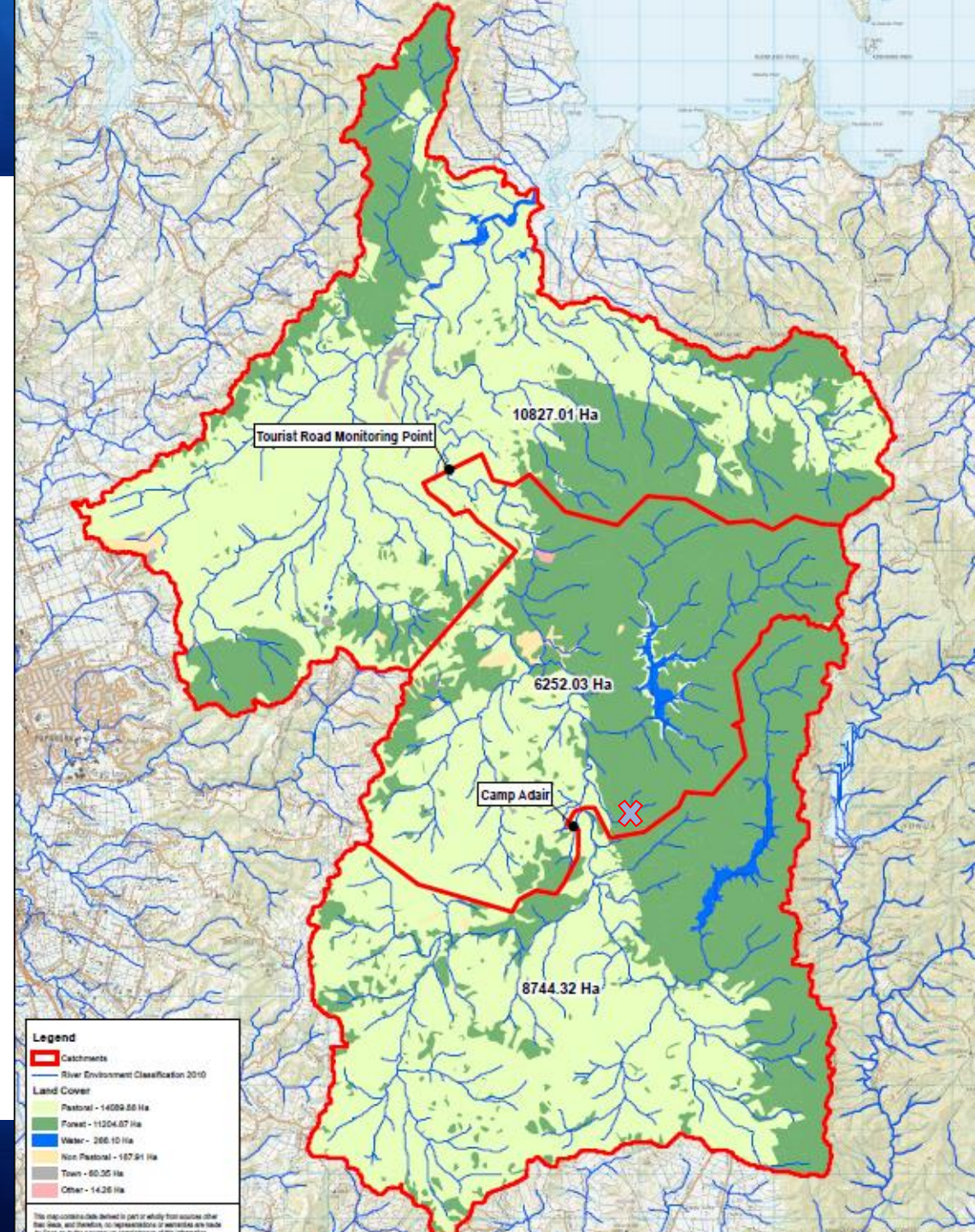
# Consent / compliance monitoring

- Link back to adverse effects on the environment
- Consider contribution to overall environmental outcomes
- Appropriateness to contribute to broader information collection (scale of project, significance of effects)
- Not just for the sake of it(!)



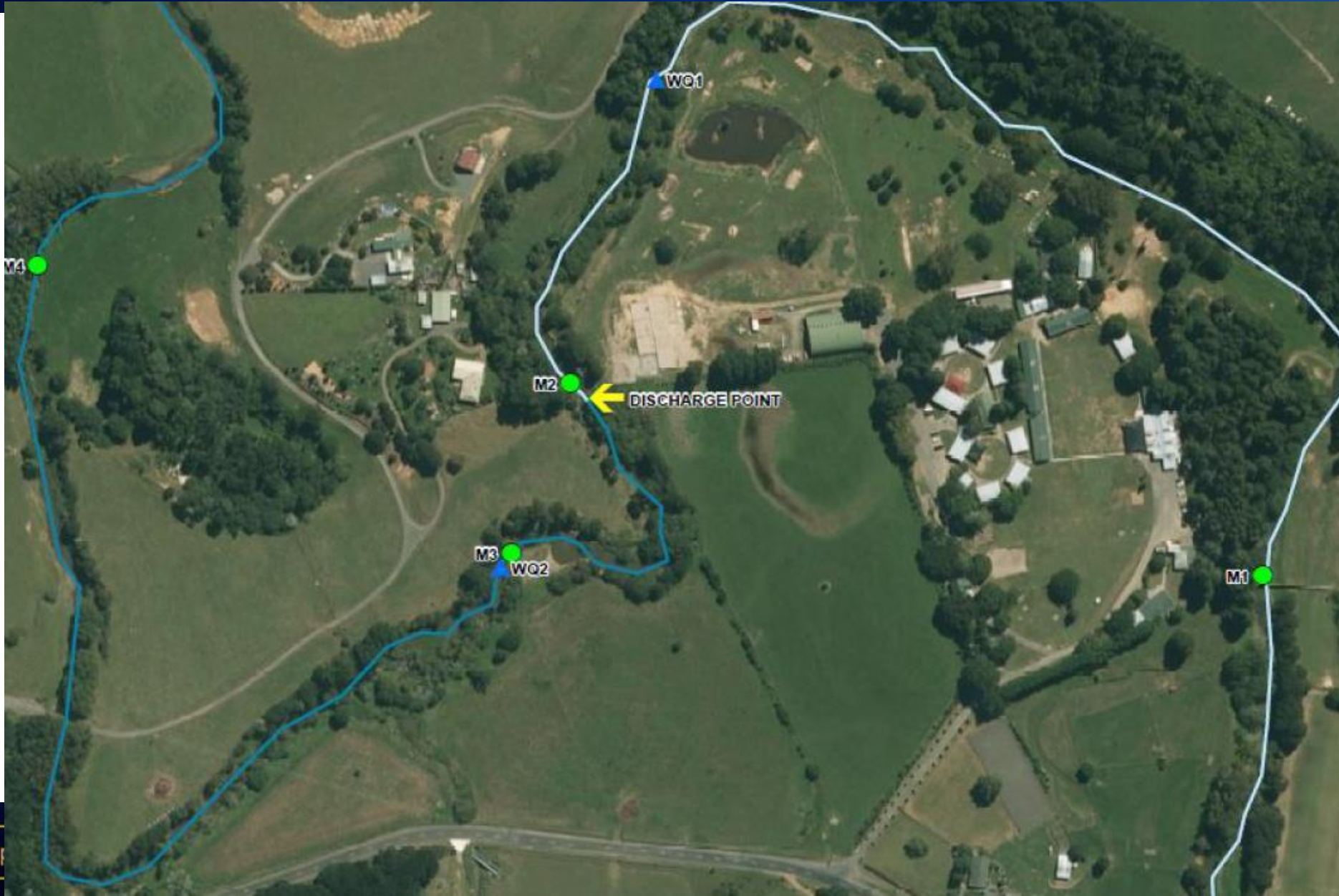
# Case studies – Water quality data

- Wairoa River
- Existing LAWA sites (x1 telemetered)
- ‘Background’ site – grab sample every 6 months





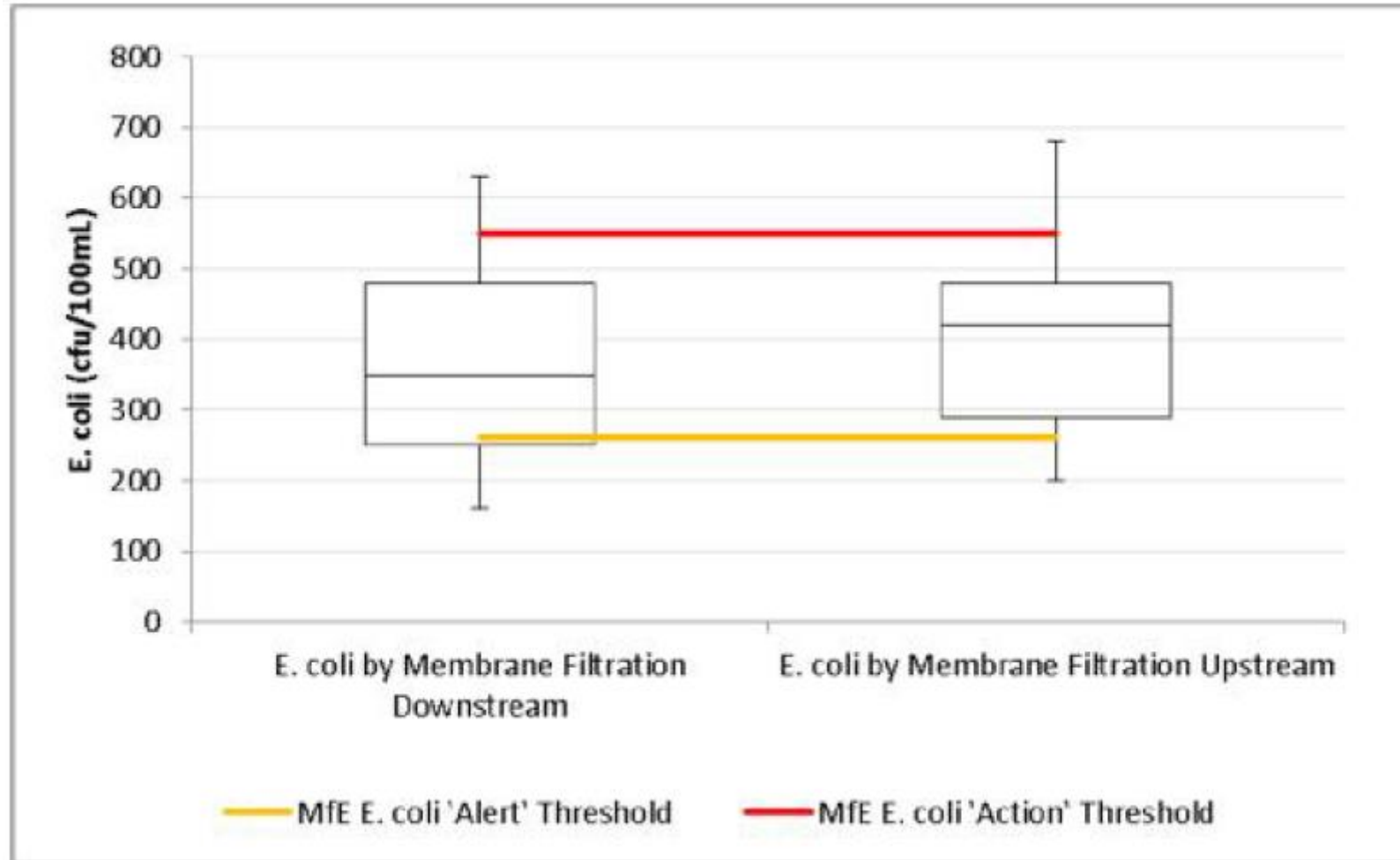
# Case studies – Water quality data



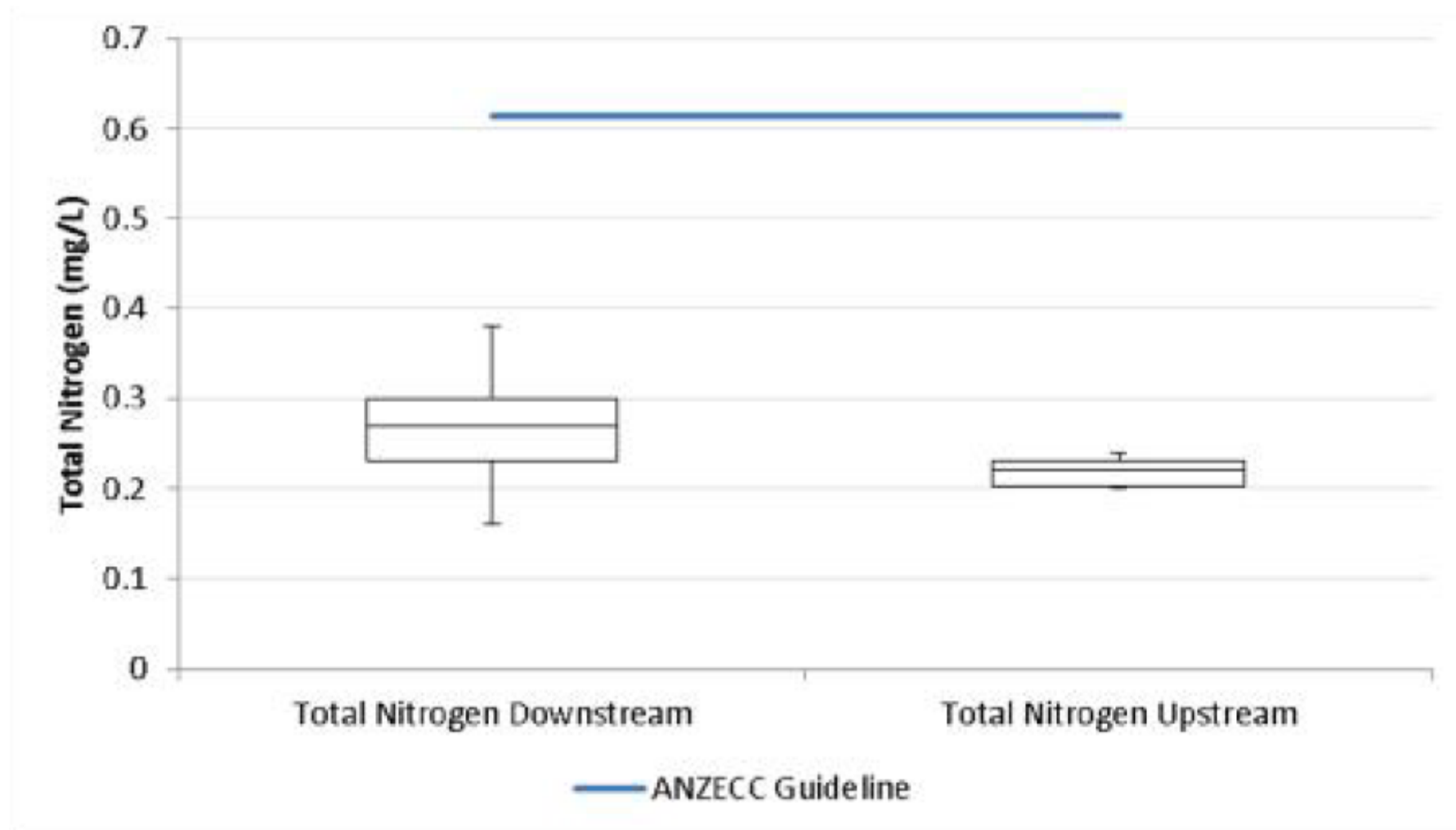


# Case studies – Water quality data

- Our site – middle of the catchment

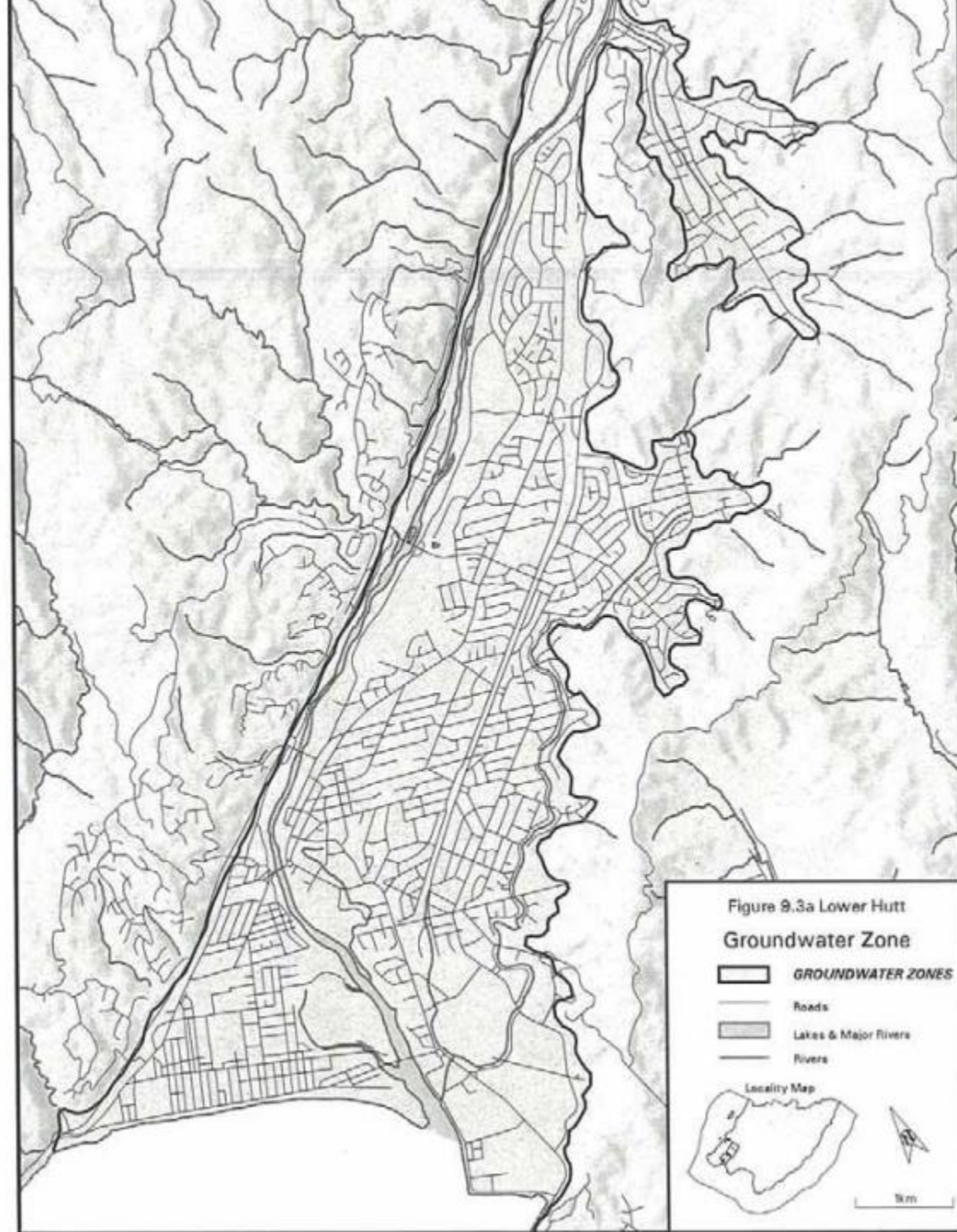


# Case studies – Water quality data

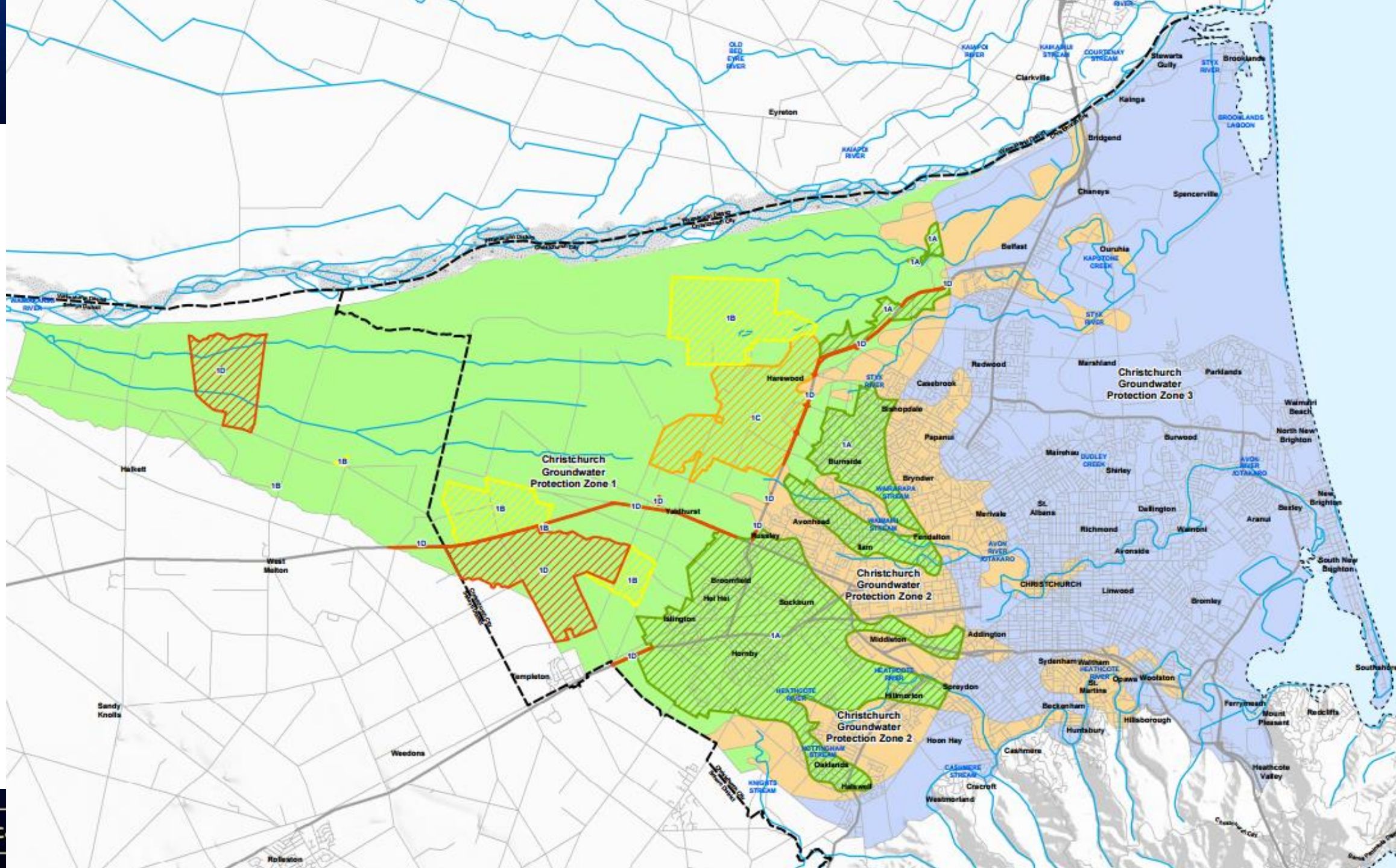


# Case studies - Overlays

- Lower Hutt Groundwater Zone
- Important source of drinking water for the Wellington Region
- Investigations have indicated that extent of the protection area may not need to be so large









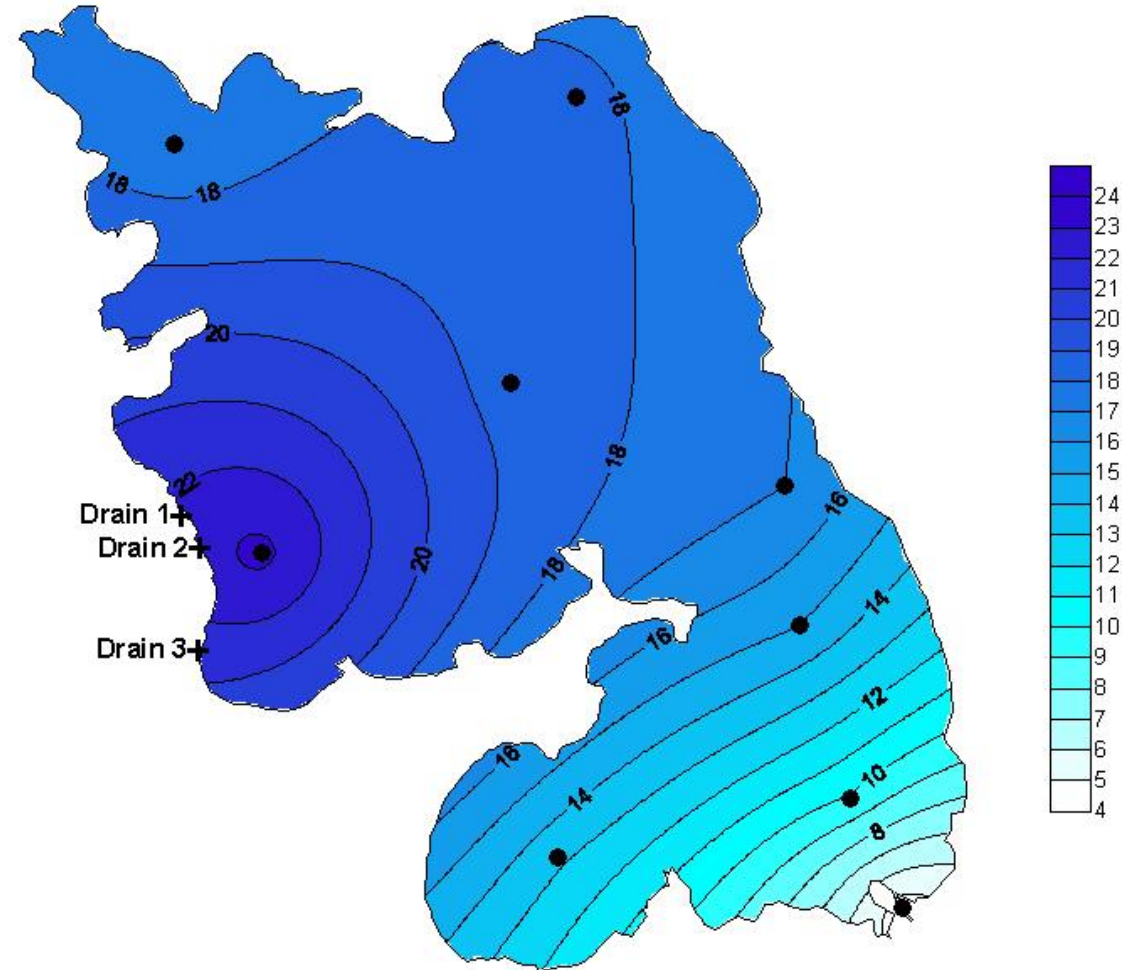
# Case study – Monitoring of accumulation of contaminants

- Disclaimer: Not uncommon and happening across New Zealand!
- Waikato / surface water body
- Discharge permit application, long term discharges to freshwater environment (lake)



# Case study – Monitoring of accumulation of contaminants

- Previous contaminant modelling done
- Contours developed for As (mg/kg)
- Pointers would be useful from a policy making perspective
  - How well do we want to protect?
  - What constitutes best practice in terms of treatment?





# Interesting 'existing' examples

- Puhoi to Warkworth project – Erosion and sediment control (and adaptive management framework)
- Waterview Connection operational air quality monitoring
- Various targeted industrial activities

# Funding

- Section 36 and LGA
  - S36(4)(a)(iii)
  - *Have regard to, when fixing costs - in a case where the charge is in respect of the local authority's monitoring functions ... to the extent that the monitoring relates to the likely effects on the environment of those persons' activities, or to the extent that the likely benefit to those persons of the monitoring exceeds the likely benefit of the monitoring to the community of the local authority as a whole ...*
- Balance to be achieved in terms of:
  - Cost,
  - Potential/actual adverse effects, and
  - Certainty for applicants

# Purpose of monitoring

- Comes back to purposes that monitoring is to inform
- Consider applicability for future policy making if appropriate
- Consider scale and quantum of effects (positive and adverse)
- Sustainable management relies on gathering appropriate data to inform policy making
- Have a story around monitoring and overall contribution to understanding – not just for monitoring's sake
- Wide-scale, low cost monitoring devices/regimes