



From Little Things, Big Errors May Grow – A Look at the Importance of QA

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With models becoming more complex all the time, it is important to step back sometimes and look at how the little things can affect your results. This is especially important where automatic processes are used as there are always exceptions to the underlying assumptions in these routines. As floodplain manager for Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne Water utilises flood models to understand risk across their geographic area and have recently undertaken reviews of a number of models created for them and/or local governments. Using real examples from these reviews, this paper looks at the impact of having erroneous data or coarse assumptions for certain variables on model stability and results in terms of extents, levels and/or flows. The results may surprise you and definitely present a strong case for a well structured review process and/or peer review.