NSD OPUS

Trusting your expert gut in wastewater network renewal planning

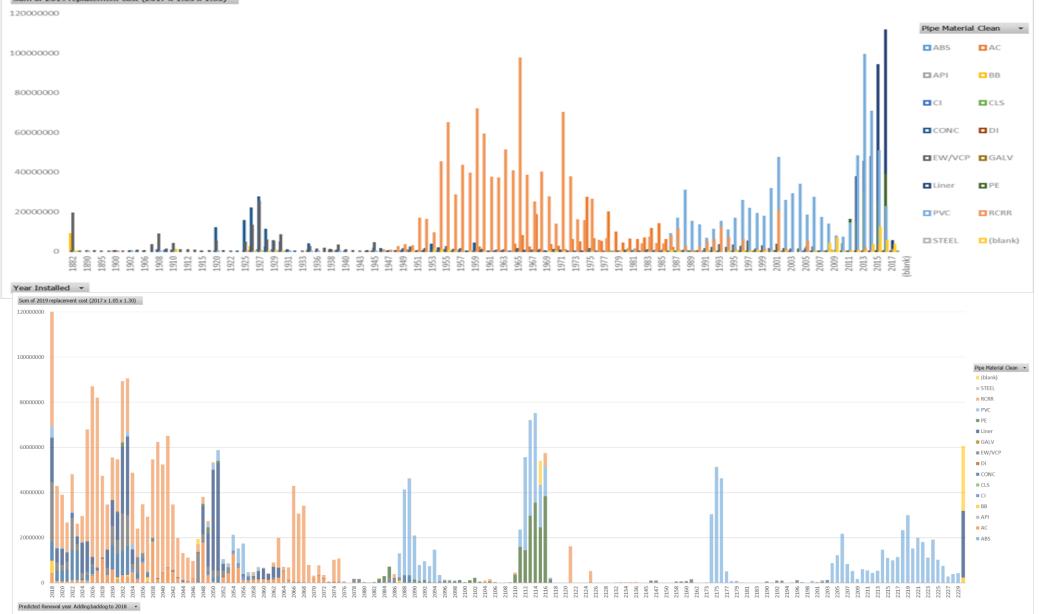
James Thorne, Senior Engineer/Asset Manager, WSP Opus Co author and academic supervisor: Dr Eric Scheepbouwer, University of Canterbury

New Zealand



New Zealand

Sum of 2019 replacement cost (2017 x 1.05 x 1.30)



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Asset management

High level principles Practical application

Well understood
 Little guidance

- IIMM
 Which pipe do I
 actually replace?
- ISO 55001



Masters Thesis:

Intuitive decision making for wastewater pipe networks

Wastewater networks = complex systems

Socio technical
 What's the cause?

Network complexity
 Incomplete data

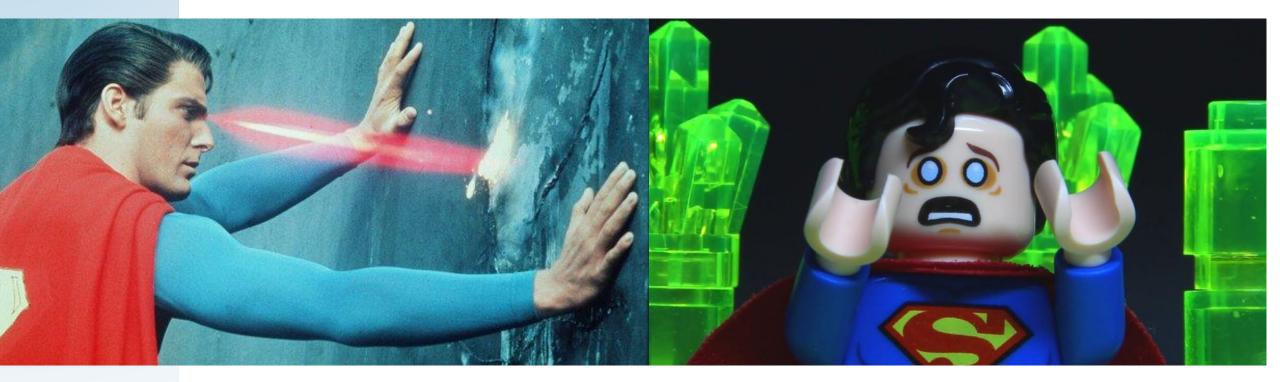
Deterministic decision making

"is less able to find appropriate solutions where problems or decision making systems grow increasingly large, complex and less well understood" (van Riel et al, 2014)

Intuitive decision making

"Engaging in conscious calculated thought process was concluded to be more effective for simple decisions, however the intuitive thought process delivered great effectiveness for more complex decisions" (Dijksterhuis et al, 2006)

Intuition is powerful Bias and heuristics

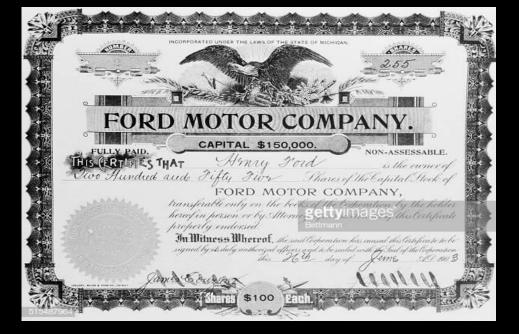


Nobel prize winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman

- Rational: (System 2)
- Slow
- Calculating
- Effortful

- Intuitive: (System 1)
- Fast
- Instinct
- Judgements





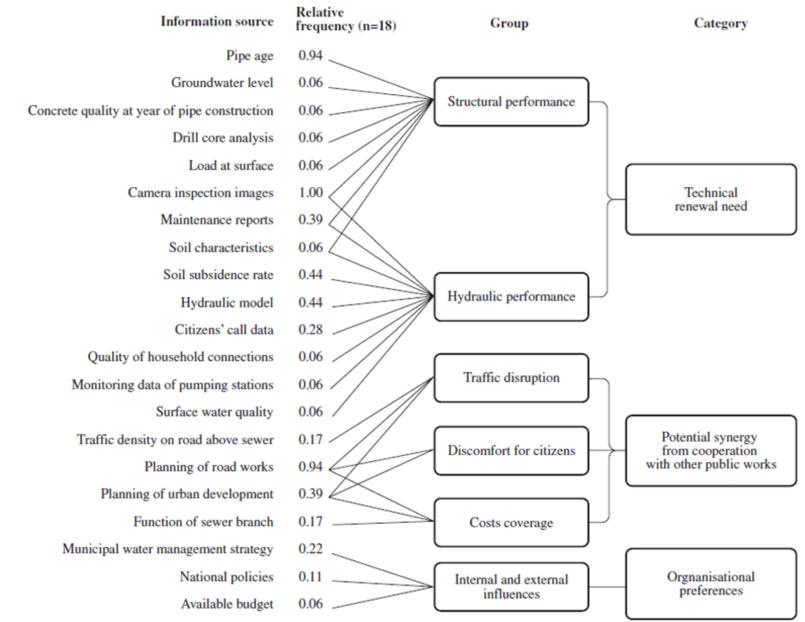
Pitfalls of intuition

1 x 2 x 3 x 4 x 5 x 6 x 7 x 8 x 9

Pitfalls of intuition

Answer: 362,880

Intuition: wastewater networks



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Unskilled intuition

Skilled intuition

Write it down!

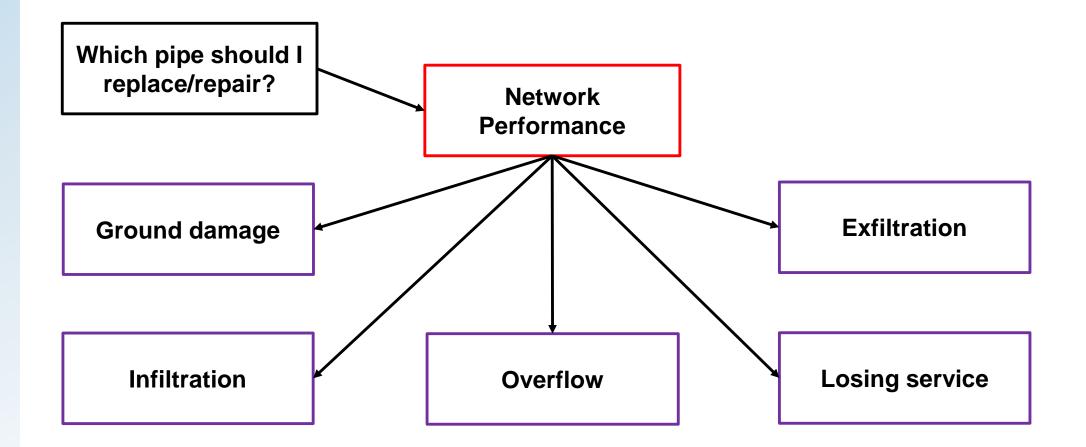
Where's the opportunity for learning?

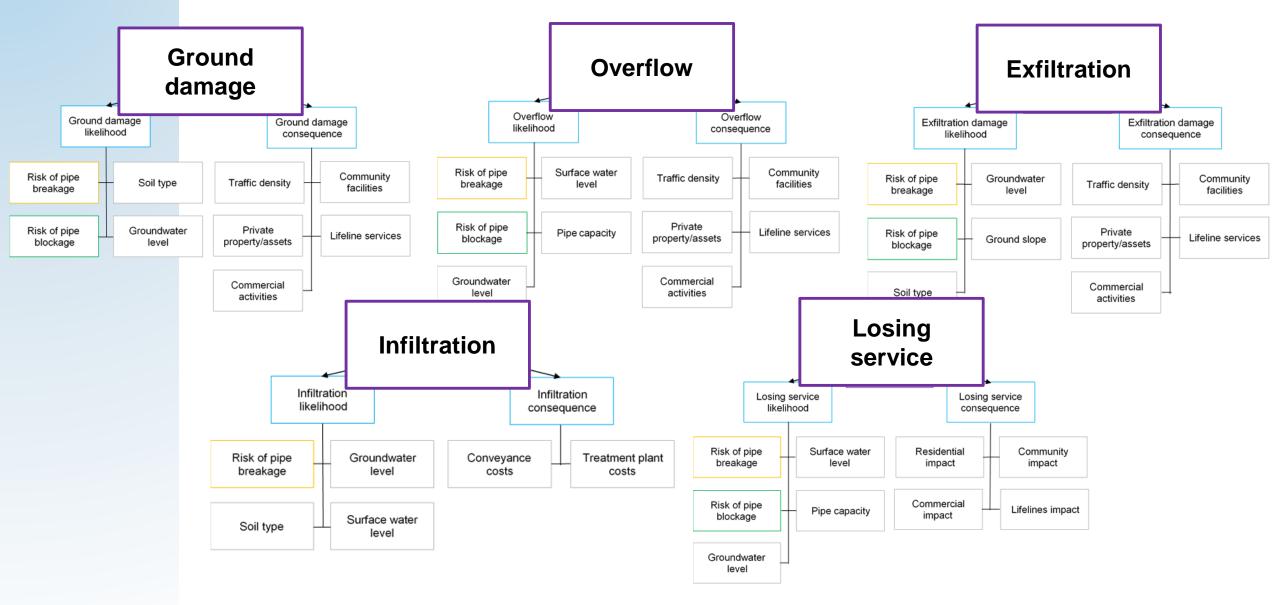
- reference point
- challenge assumptions
- audit open book
- institutional knowledge



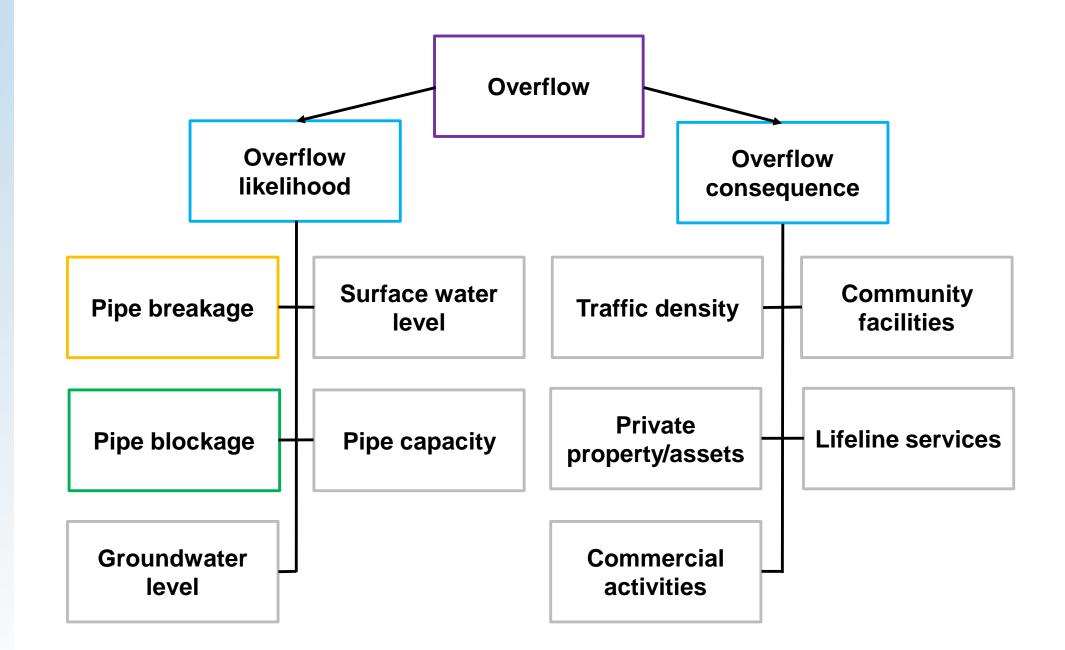
Method for documenting intuition

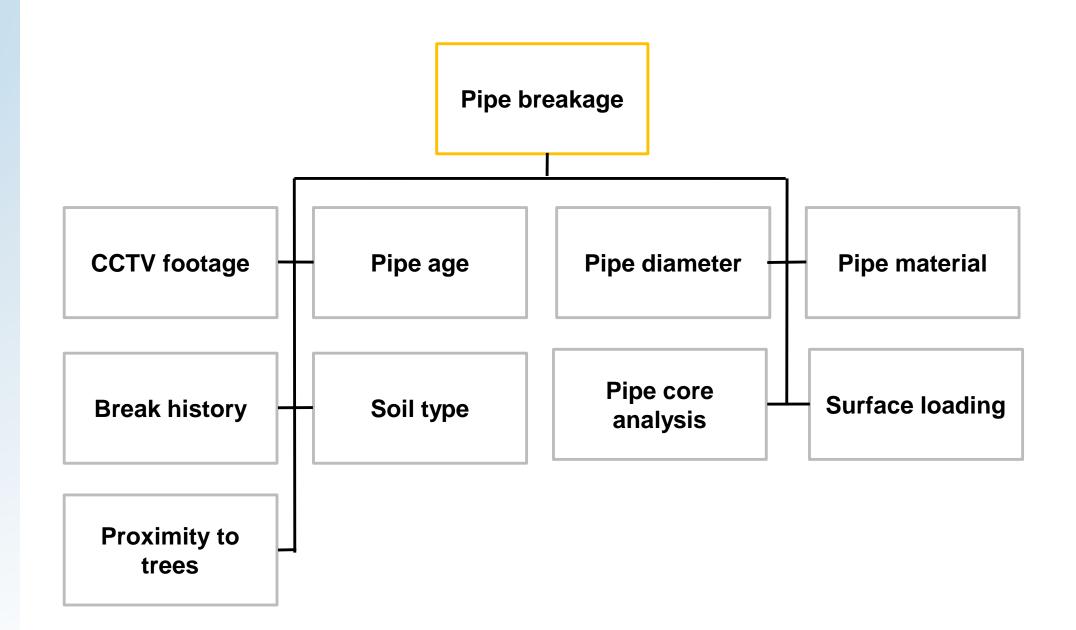
- relevant factors
- decision tree structure
- factor weighting





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Industry survey

- Online survey
- 43 industry experts
- Feb 2017
- 13 questions
- Likert scale

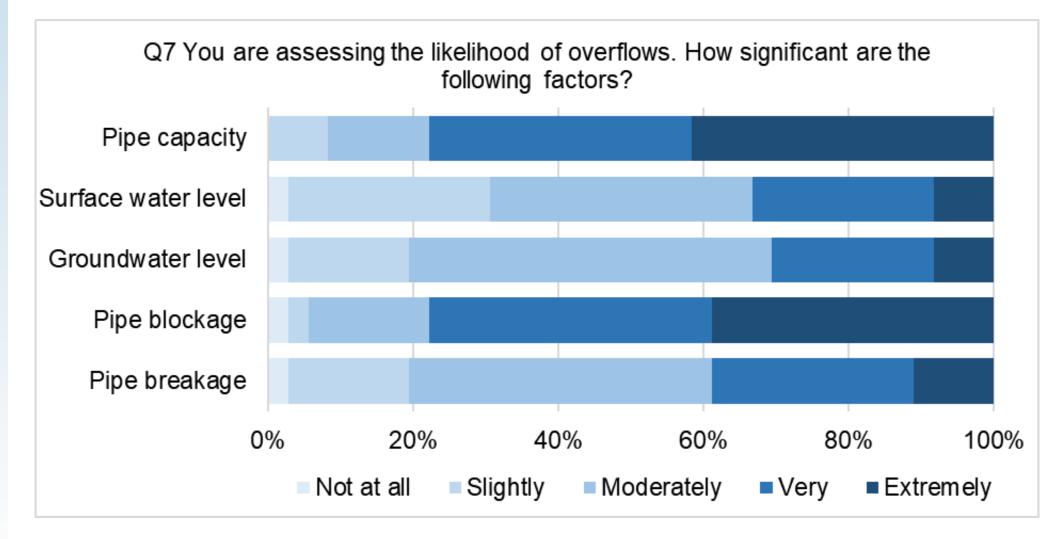
Likert Scale	
Extremely significant	5
Very significant	4
Moderately significant	3
Slightly significant	2
Not at all significant	1

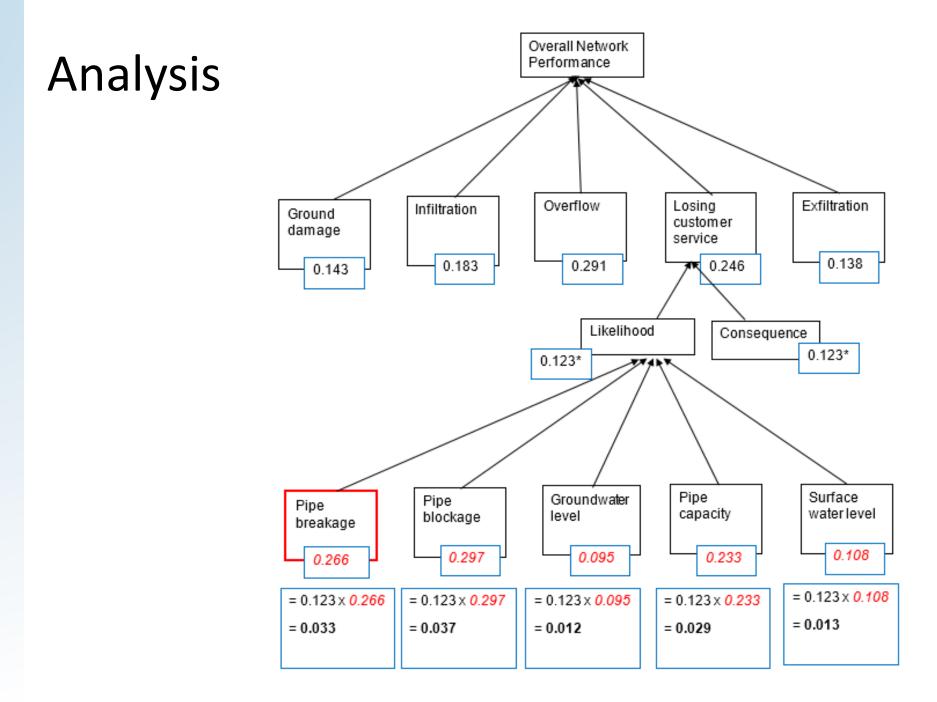
Question example

How significant are the following factors to you when assessing the likelihood of overflows?

	Not at all significant	Slightly significant	Moderately significant	Very significant	Extremely significant
Risk of pipe breakage	0	0	0	0	0
Risk of pipe blockage	0	0	0	\circ	\circ
Groundwater level	0	0	0	\circ	\circ
Surface water level	0	0	0	\circ	0
Pipe capacity	0	0	0	0	\circ

Results





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Analysed results

Factor	Overall significance
Overflow	0.414
Losing customer service	0.346
Pipe capacity	0.159
Pipe blockage	0.155
Infiltration	0.135

Top 5 out of 34

What I found – as a method to document intuition

Benefits

- Prioritise
- Identify factors to include
- Targeted data collection

What I found – as a method to document intuition

Benefits -continued

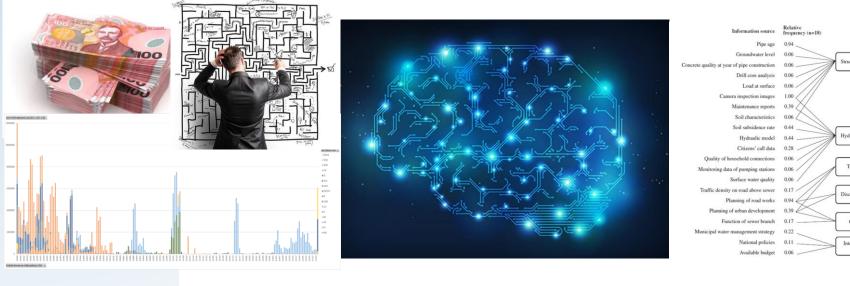
- Apply across a network
- Repeatable framework
- Documentation trail
- Shortlist

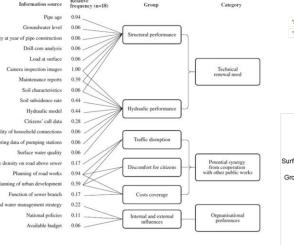
What I found – as a method to document intuition

<u>Next steps – for you</u>

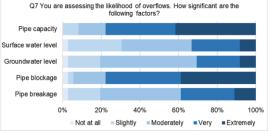
- Use the model and results
- Follow the process
- Document the expertise you have

Closing remarks









Big and complex

Use intuition

Write it down

This method

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