Taylors Road Retarding Basin

The Taylors Road Retarding Basin covers an area of 16 hectares, and is designed to provide attenuation and treatment for a number of local catchments. The Basin flows from Lyndhurst Drain and along the upgraded Eastern Contour Drain channel. Because of its location within Melbourne Water's Lyndhurst Drainage Scheme, it needs to meet Melbourne Water's 'Deemed to Comply' design criteria. Richard Sosenko – a Civil Engineer with Dalton Consulting Engineers – spoke to 12d about the challenges of meeting these criteria, and how he and his team achieved compliance with the help of 12d Model software.

In order to provide optimal water treatment, Retarding Basins are designed to have varying depths with different planting bands. One of the biggest challenges in designing a retarding basin of this nature is to get the correct mix of depths in accordance with Melbourne Water criteria:

- Shallow Marsh Zone (Natural Water Level to -0.15m)
- Deep Marsh Zone (-0.15m to -0.35m)
- Submerged Marsh Zone (-0.35m to -0.7m)
- Open Water Zone (-0.7m +)

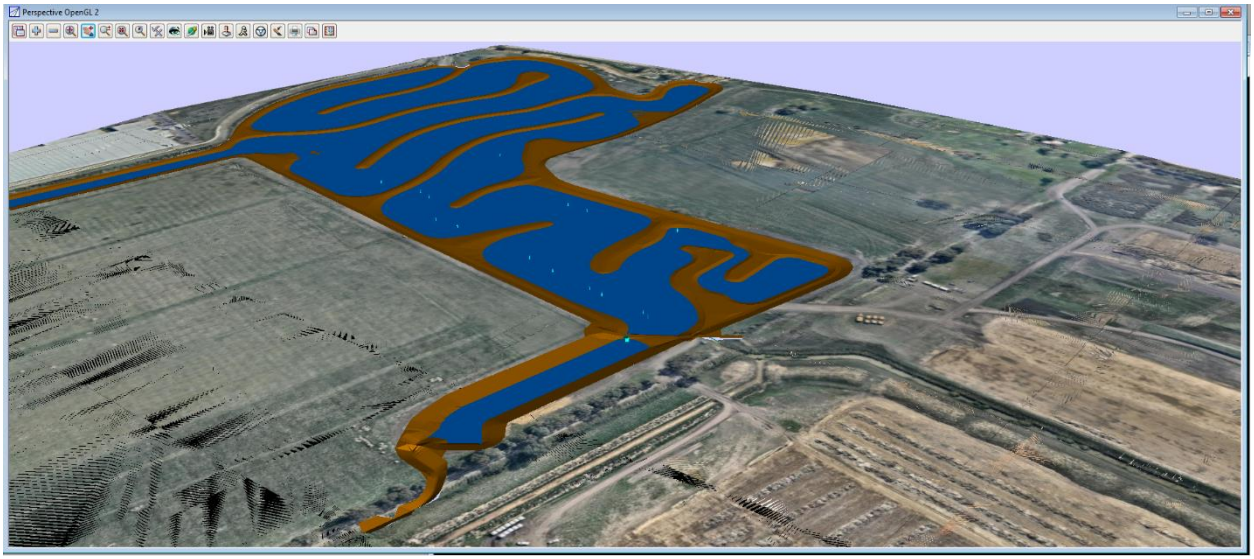
This process requires a number of iterations to ensure a minimum area of 80% is achieved for shallow and deep marsh, known as the macrophyte zone (main water body).

Given the size of the job, it was important that a stable, quick and dynamic platform was used to ensure outputs could be done quickly (due to the repetitive nature). To assist with approval from Melbourne Water, it was important that the final outputs could be generated and shared in a client friendly format. In addition, because of safety and maintenance issues, it was important that minimum batter slopes were achieved within the Retarding Basin area.

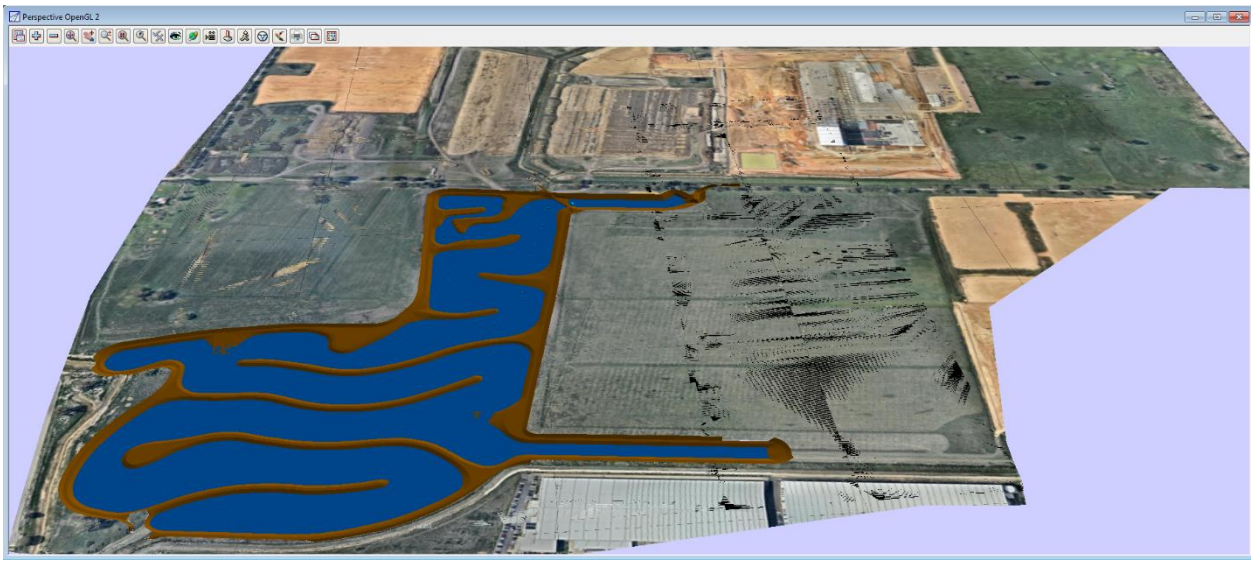
The Natural Water Level (NWL) TIN was created at a fixed height of RL6.5 as calculated from flood analysis. The proposed retarding basin (RB) TIN was then created by producing 3D strings to model the sediment ponds (1.5m max depth below NWL), inlet pools (1.5m max depth below NWL), and intermediate pools (1.2m max depth below NWL) based on batter slopes, as specified in Melbourne Water's design criteria. The depth between the NWL TIN and the RB TIN was analysed, and depth faces/colouring outputted to both plan and perspective views to illustrate to Melbourne Water the different zone depths. Depth contours were also outputted based on these different zones/depths, and the plan area of these depth contours calculated to show the overall percentage of depths for each zone.

A slope analysis (set with minimum and maximum crossfalls) was then run on the RB TIN to show any grades within the macrophyte zone that were flatter than 1 in 150. This quickly identified areas where the batters required remodelling.

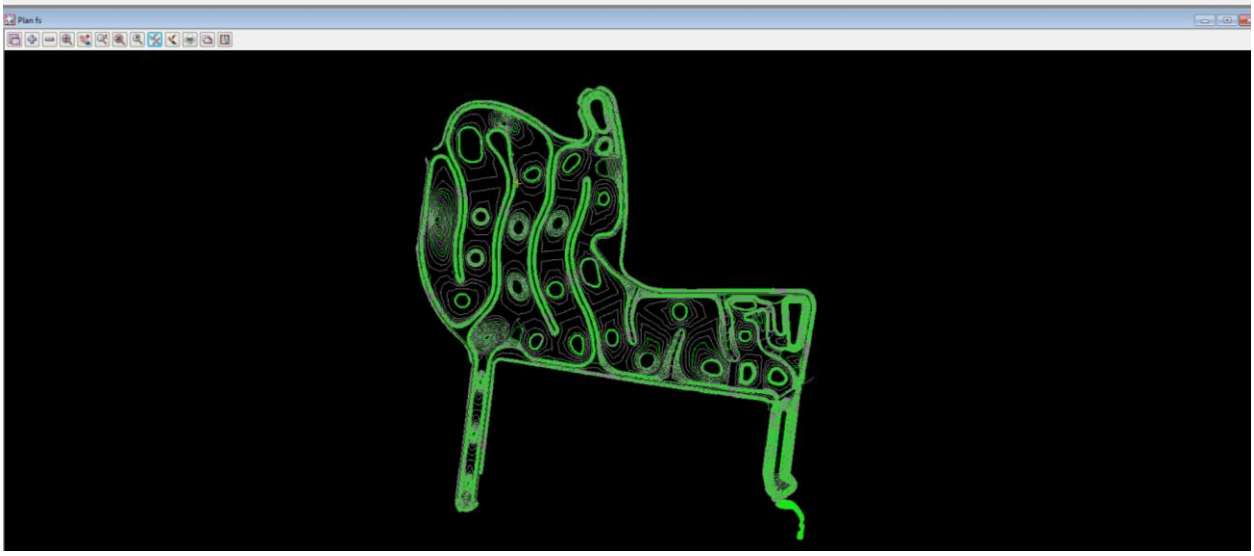
Due to the number of design amendments and iterations, the above process (retriangulating TINs, depth colouring/FACES, slope analysis, *etc*.) was written as a chain and re-run each time the RB TIN was updated.



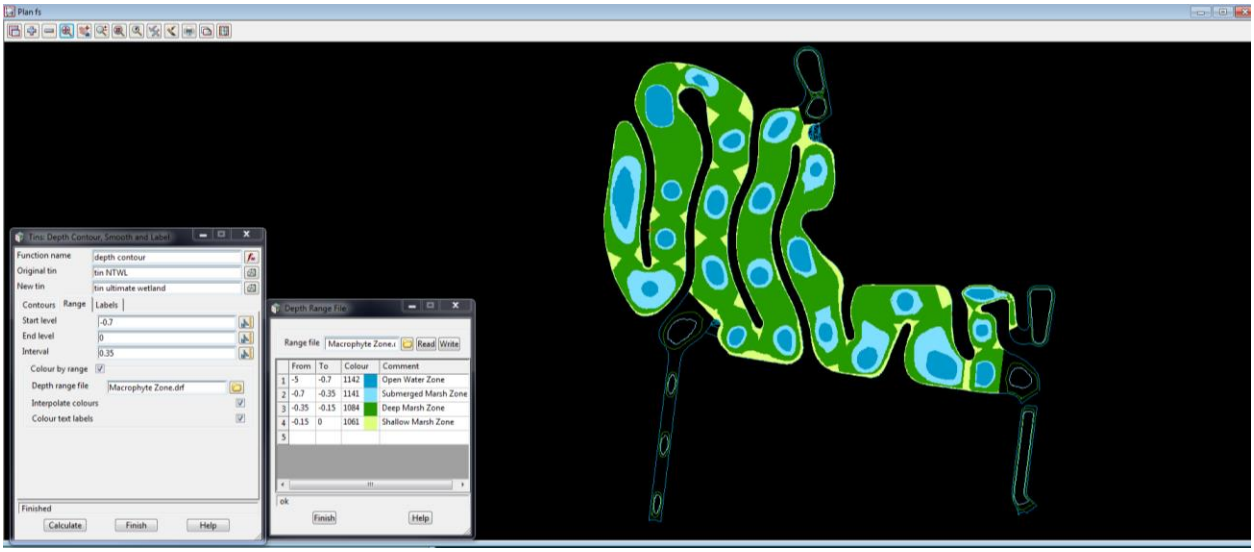
- Wetland Visualisation looking North-West



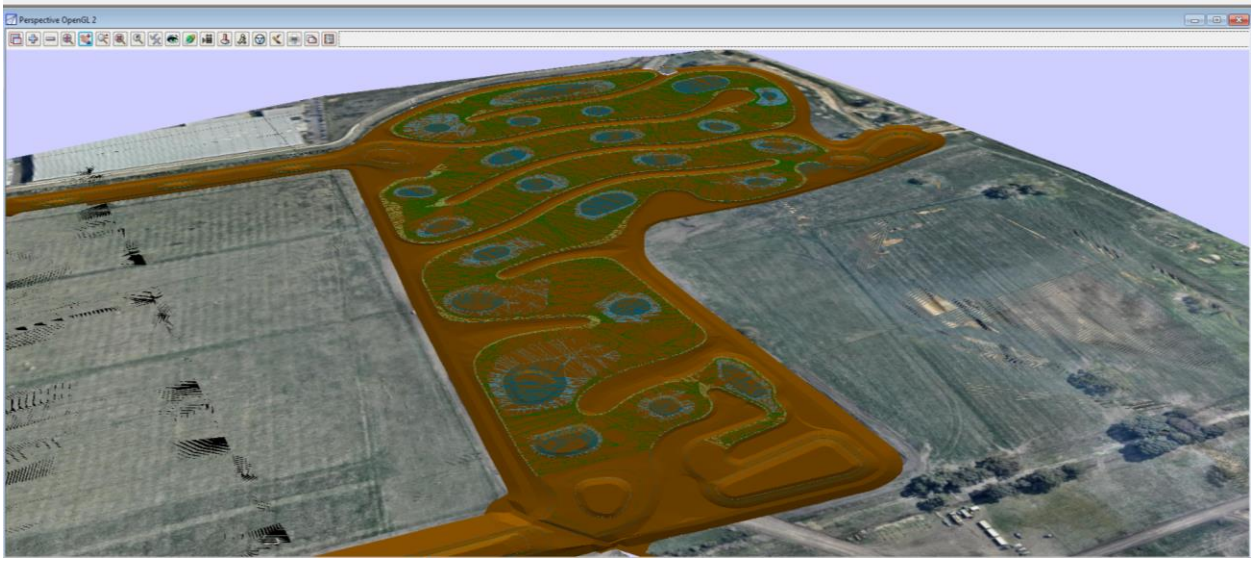
- Wetland Visualisation looking East



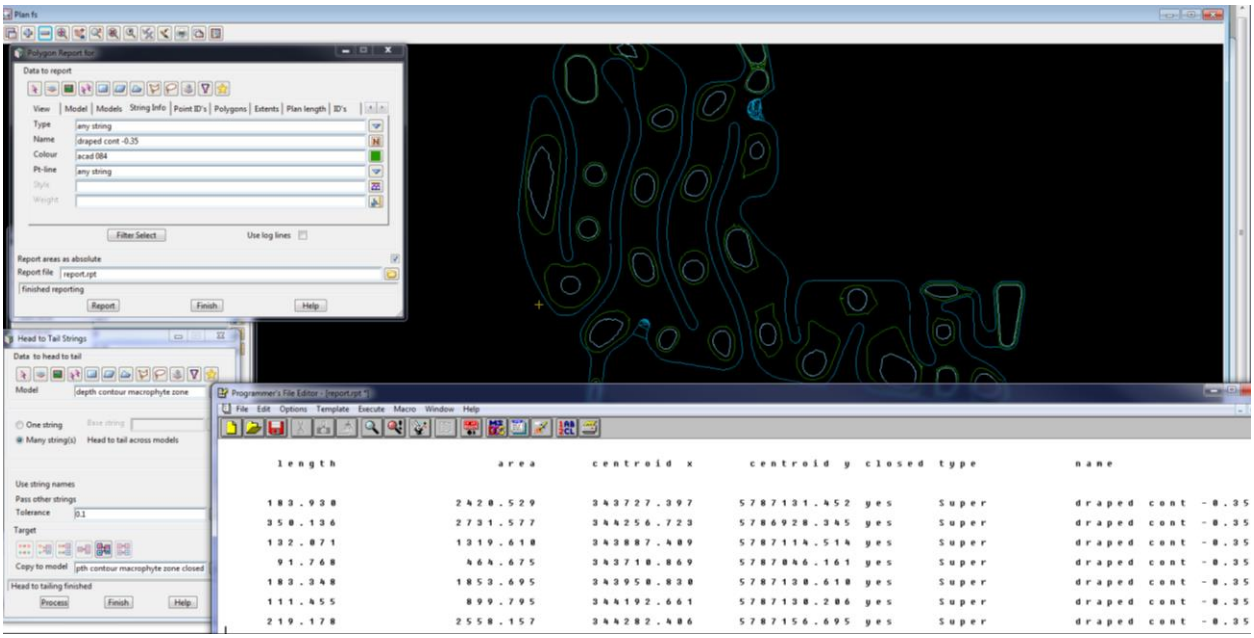
- Triangulation of TIN Data



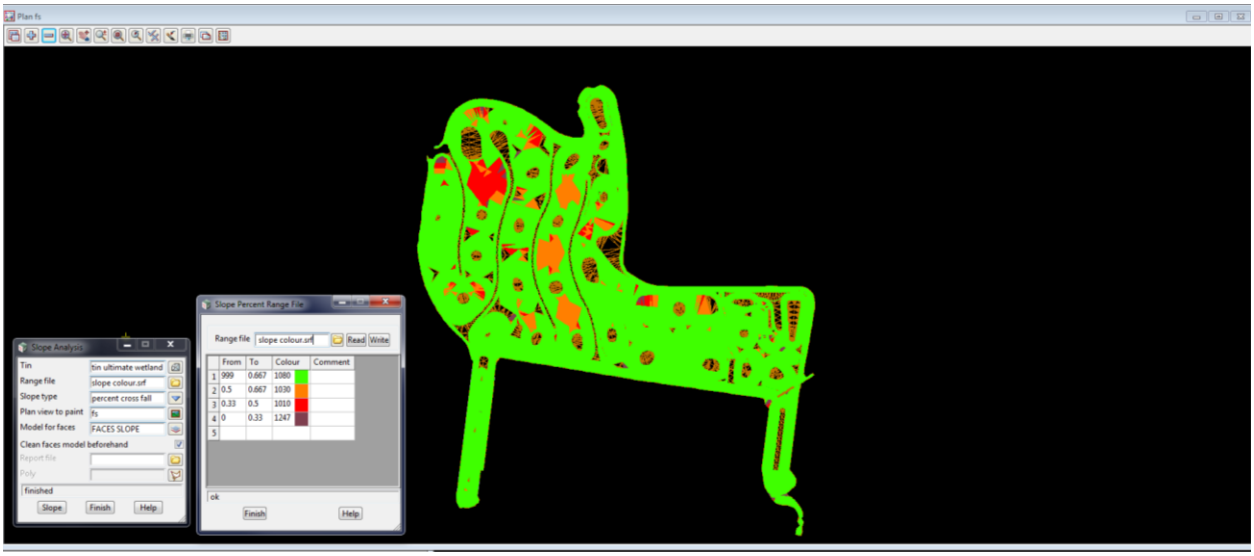
- Depth Colouring of TIN to show different Depths



- Depth Colouring of TIN in Visualisation View



- Area of depth contours



- Slope Analysis