

Calls to Police related to alcohol

Thames Coromandel District

Released 29 November 2013



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CAVEAT

Police data examined in this report is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is continually recorded. It is only as accurate as the information contained in the databases at the time that it is sourced. Statistics from provisional data are counted differently than official statistics and should not be compared.



Key Findings

Analysis of calls to Police related to alcohol harm was conducted in relation to events occurring within Thames Coromandel District from January 2008 to December 2012. During that time, within this area, Police received 5,218 calls for types of events that are typically related to alcohol increasing by 34 percent from 887 in 2008 to 1189 in 2012.

The following has been identified:

- Numbers of calls to Police related to alcohol harm have increased in the past five years; the reasons for this have not been identified.
- Peak times for calls to Police related to alcohol harm were Friday and Saturday nights and Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- There is an increase in calls to Police related to alcohol harm during Christmas and New Year.
- Across the district calls to Police related to alcohol harm were concentrated in locations with licensed premises especially Thames, Whitianga and Whangamatā.

Police would like to strengthen partnerships with the Thames Coromandel District Territorial Authority to develop solutions that will reduce the demand currently placed on police resources. This can be achieved by:

- Restrictions on trading hours for on-license and off-license premises;
- One way door policies for on-license premises;
- Limits on the numbers of licensed premises in each town; and
- Restrictions on where licensed premises can be located.



Introduction

1. The operating strategy for New Zealand Police to 2015 is *Prevention First*. The strategy is aimed at preventing crime before it happens using targeted policing, partnerships, and focusing on the drivers of crime.
2. The new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 states that when developing a draft or provisional Local Alcohol Policy, a Territorial Authority must consider a range of factors set out in the Act, including the nature and severity of the alcohol-related problems arising in the district¹. To that end, Police (along with Licensing Inspectors and Medical Officers of Health) must make reasonable efforts to give the Territorial Authority any relevant information they may hold².
3. This report analyses calls made by the public to police. In each case the Police employee who takes the call, categorises the incident based on what the caller tells them into basic event types such as violence, disorder, etc. These calls are then recorded in the Police Communications and Resource Deployment database (CARD). An event can be re-categorised into different types throughout the life of a call, so for the purposes of this analysis, event types are considered at the time of call closure.
4. Although CARD does not hold information on whether alcohol was consumed by the offender or by the victim, certain types of events are typically considered to be related to alcohol. These are:

Grievous Assaults	Sexual Affronts	Disorder
Serious Assaults	Abduction For Sex	Breach Of The Peace
Minor Assaults	Sexual Attacks	Obstructing/Hindering/Resisting
Intimidation/Threats	Rape	Unlawful Assembly
Crimes Against Personal Privacy	Domestic Dispute	Breach Of Local Council Liquor Ban
Drunk Custody/Detox Centre	Domestic Violence	Sale of Liquor offences (old Act)
Drunk Home	(Sale and Supply of Alcohol offences – new Act)	

5. The calls analysed in this report were made between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012 and fall into the categories listed above. They are presented visually in the attached maps by individual years. In the future, yearly updates will be provided. The calls do not include those initiated by Police (ie, officer-discovered contact with the Communications Centre) and exclude duplicate calls.
6. In this analysis, the calls to Police were spatially analysed using a hot spotting technique called Gi*. The Gi* technique aggregates events to a grid, the size of which depends on the area of analysis. The totals within each grid square are then compared with each other across the entire study area.
7. Gi* compares local averages with global averages, identifying those areas where the local averages (eg, concentrations of crime) are significantly different from the global averages (ie, in comparison to what is generally observed across the whole study area).
8. Gi* identifies if the local pattern of crime is different from what is generally observed across the whole study area, and produces a level of significance. The areas identified as not significant are those where clustering would likely have occurred due to chance and not due to the location itself.
9. As Gi* adds statistical significance to hot spot analysis, it shows which hot spots are significant, and alerts to something unusual occurring at specific locations.

¹ Sections 78 and 79(2) of the Act

² Section 78(4) of the Act



10. Hot spots identified as 99.9% significant using the Gi* technique are most likely to be locations that are generators, attractors, or enablers of crime. Focusing on these locations and determining the underlying causes of crime happening there is likely to reduce the level of crime across the overall study area.
11. The Appendix includes:
- Map one – first level hot spots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related events in the given year for the entire Territorial Authority.
 - Map two – second level hot spots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related events that occurred only in those locations that were identified as 90% significant hot spots from map one. If multiple second level hot spots are present, multiple maps are provided.
 - Data clocks – time distribution of events that occurred within the second-level hot spots, showing when those events took place.
 - Map of licensed premises – the data (current as at 2011) was sourced from the Local Licensing Authority and provided to Police by Massey University in May 2013. The displayed licensed premises are only of those types that Massey University consider to contribute to alcohol-related harm; these are supermarkets, bottle stores, grocery stores, night clubs, and taverns. The map shows the distribution and number of on-licensed and off-licensed premises. As the data relates to 2011, there may have been some changes to the licensed premises since that time.

Analysis

Overview

12. Thames-Coromandel is a rural district located in the north east of the Waikato Region around the Firth of Thames and the Coromandel peninsula. It has a resident population of approximately 27,000 spread across a number of towns linked by the Pacific Coast Highway (State Highway 25).³ The main towns are Thames, Coromandel, Whitianga, Tairua and Whangamatā.
13. This is also a popular holiday destination for both campers and bach owners with the population estimated to reach over 120,000 during the summer holiday period.⁴ The largest localised increases taking place in Whangamatā, Whitianga and Pāuanui.
14. Survey figures indicate that at New Year around 70 percent of the population are visitors from other regions.
15. Liquor licensing in the district is currently controlled by the District Licensing Agency.
16. Liquor bans are in place at various times and locations. In some locations they apply 24 hours on every day throughout the year while in others they are at specific dates and times. These latter typically covering public holidays and high profile events such as the Whitianga Scallop Festival and the Whangamatā Beach Hop.
17. As the attached table shows, calls to Police related to alcohol harm in the Thames-Coromandel area have increased by approximately 34 percent in the five years from 2008 to 2012.
- | Year | Alcohol-related events |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 2008 | 887 |
| 2009 | 930 |
| 2010 | 1,121 |
| 2011 | 1,091 |
| 2012 | 1,189 |
| Total | 5,218 |
18. There are several possible reasons for this including:
- More calls being made by the general public as a result of improved communications (more mobile phones);

³ Statistics New Zealand sub-national population estimates 30 June 2012

⁴ Policy and Planning Group 2010 (2012). *Coromandel Peninsula Peak Population Study 2009/10*. Thames Coromandel District Council.



- More calls due to increased public awareness of issues such as domestic violence;
 - Changes in Police tactics such as increases in staff numbers at high risk times and locations.
19. Data clocks for each hour of each day for each year from 2008 to 2012 are included in the Appendices. These show a large number of calls each evening, with peak numbers on Friday night/ Saturday morning and Saturday night/ Sunday morning. These times correspond to periods when large numbers of people engage in recreational drinking.⁵
20. It is considered likely that reducing opening hours for licensed premises will reduce the calls to Police and the associated alcohol related harm occurring at these times.
21. Data clocks for the year show an increase in calls around the New Year period.

LOCATION DETAIL

22. At a district level, first level hot-spot maps showed the five main population centres: Thames; Coromandel; Whitianga; Tairua; and Whangamatā as key locations. These also have the majority of on-license and off-license premises in the District.
23. Second and third level hot spots were identified in Thames, Whitianga and Whangamatā.

Thames

24. Second level hot spots of calls to Police were in the centre of town where the largest concentration of licensed premises is located. The concentration reduced towards the southeast which is more residential. This did not change notably in five years. Third level hot spots were significant in the centre of the town.

Whitianga

25. Second level hot spots in Whitianga were centred in the vicinity of the licensed premises in the east of the town. From 2008 to 2012 this gradually increased and extended in a south-westerly direction. This may be associated with residential development in the south western part of the town. Third level hot spots showed an increase in significance in the centre of town from 2008 to 2012.

Whangamatā

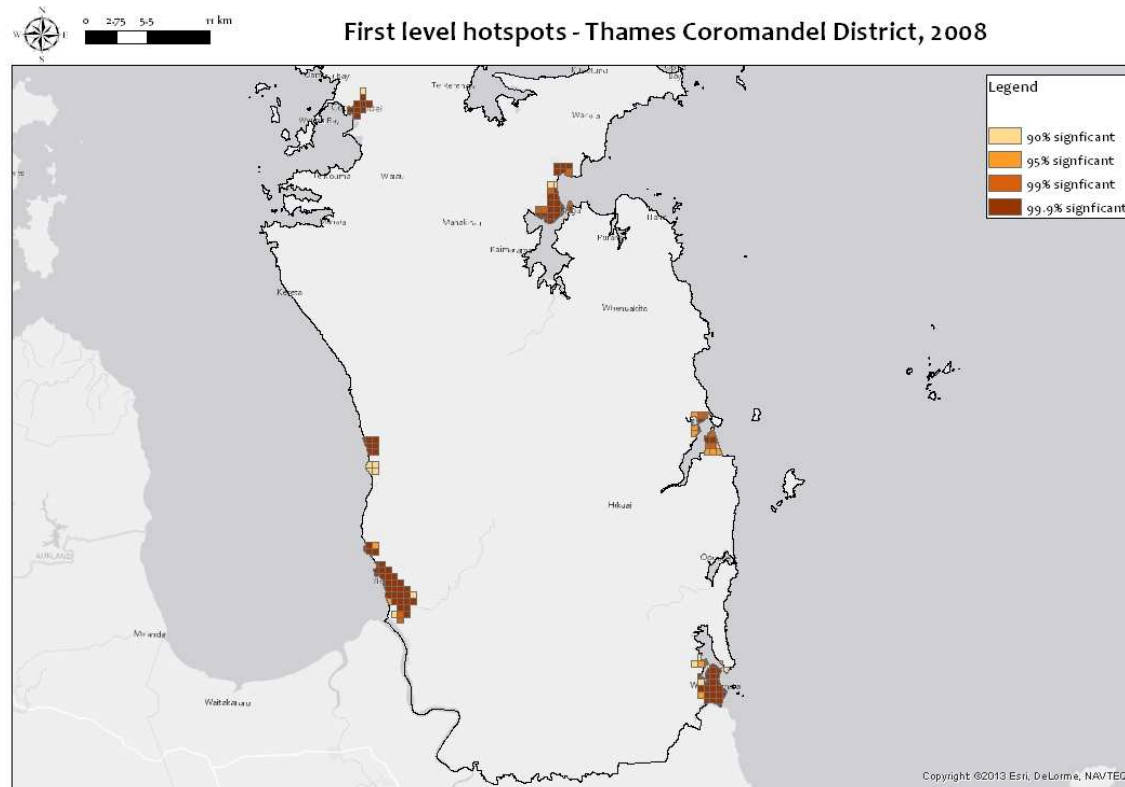
26. The second level hot spot is in the north of the town centred around the licensed premises. There was a reduction in intensity in the five years from 2008 to 2012 possibly due to increased Police presence during Christmas/ New Year and the annual Beach Hop event. This reduction in activity is reflected in a notable reduction in the significance of third level hot spot activity from 2008 to 2009 and no activity in the following three years.

Possible Prevention Measures

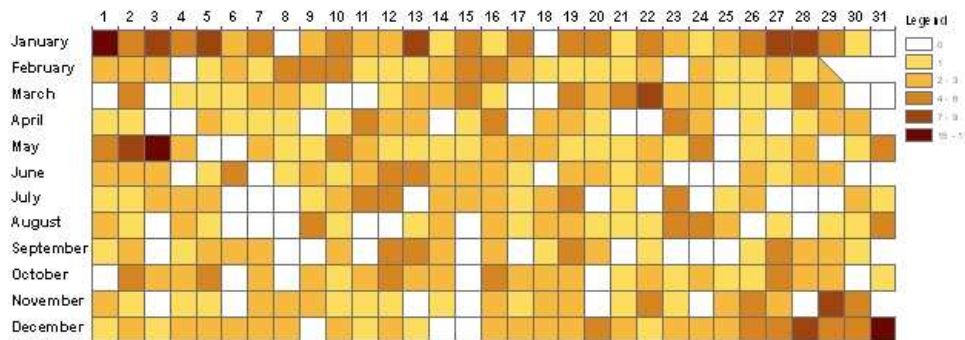
27. The following conditions could be considered to reduce the risk of alcohol harm.
- Reduce trading hours for all on-license premises to no later than midnight each day of the week.
 - Reduce trading hours for off-license premises from 0900 hours to 2100 hours.
 - One way door policies for on-licenses at least one hour before closing time.
 - A limit on the numbers of licensed premises in each town in the district.
 - Restrictions on the locations of licensed premises to reduce the risk of alcohol harm for example in proximity to schools and school routes.

⁵ Arfken, C. L. (1988), *Temporal Pattern of Alcohol Consumption in the United States*. Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 12: 137–142.

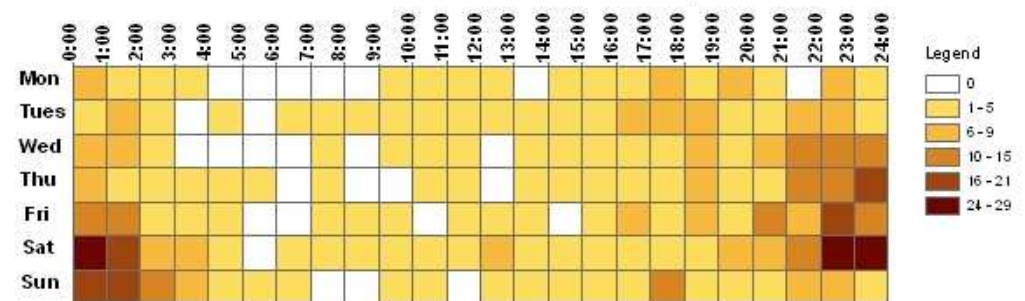
Appendix – Hot spot Maps and Data clocks

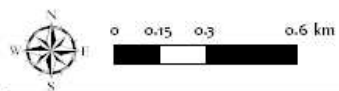


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2008

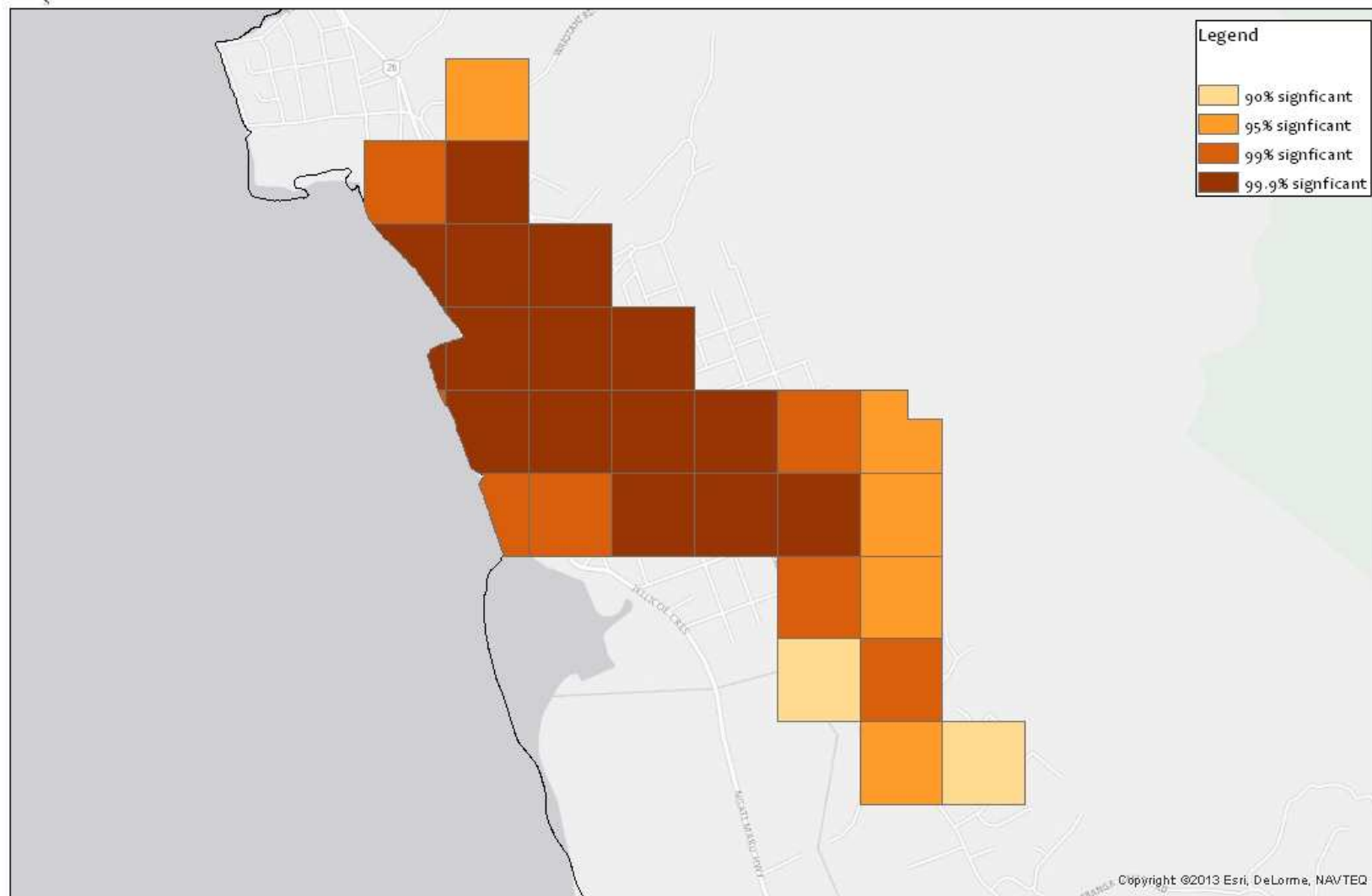


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2008



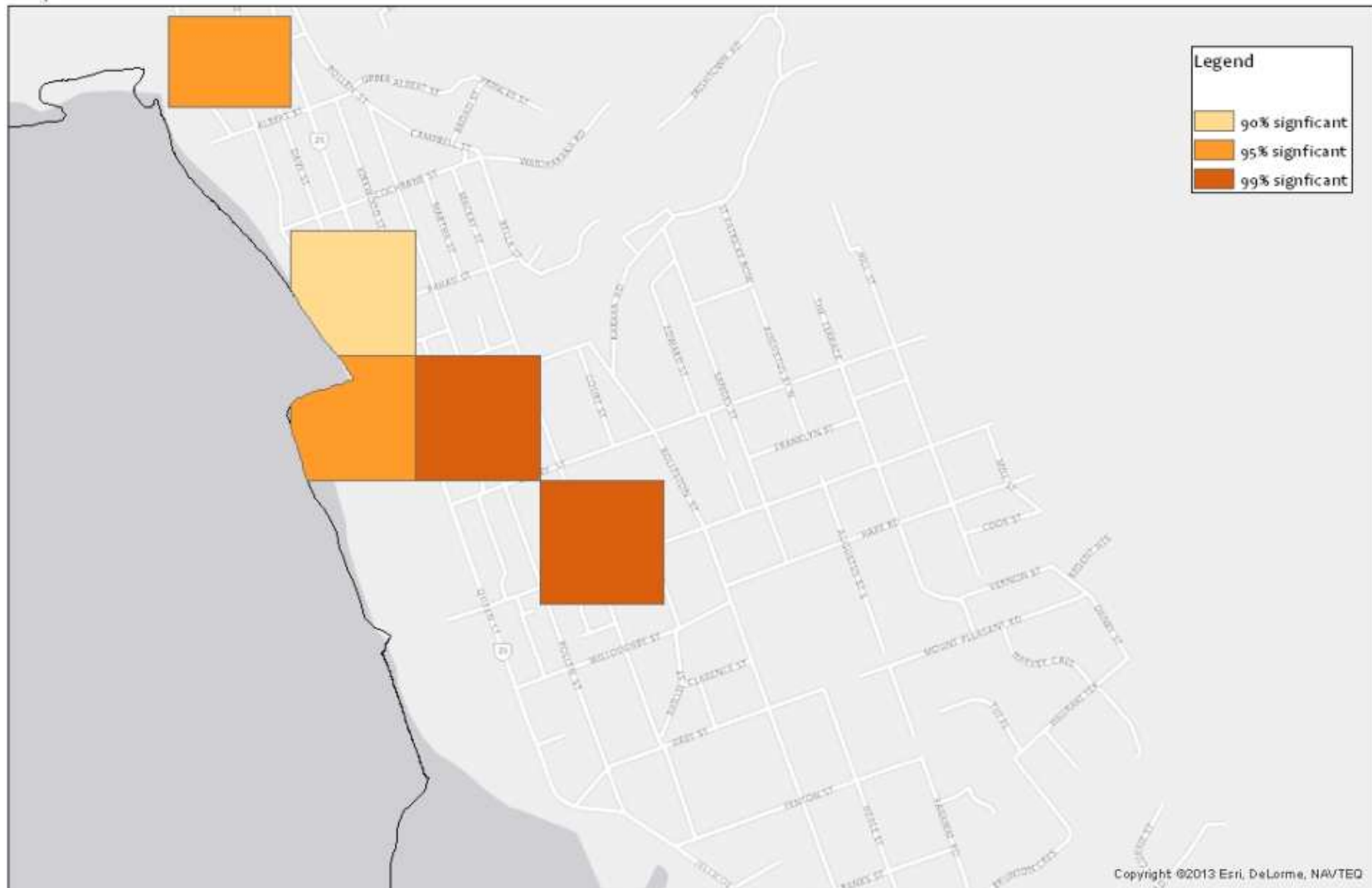


Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2008 (Thames)



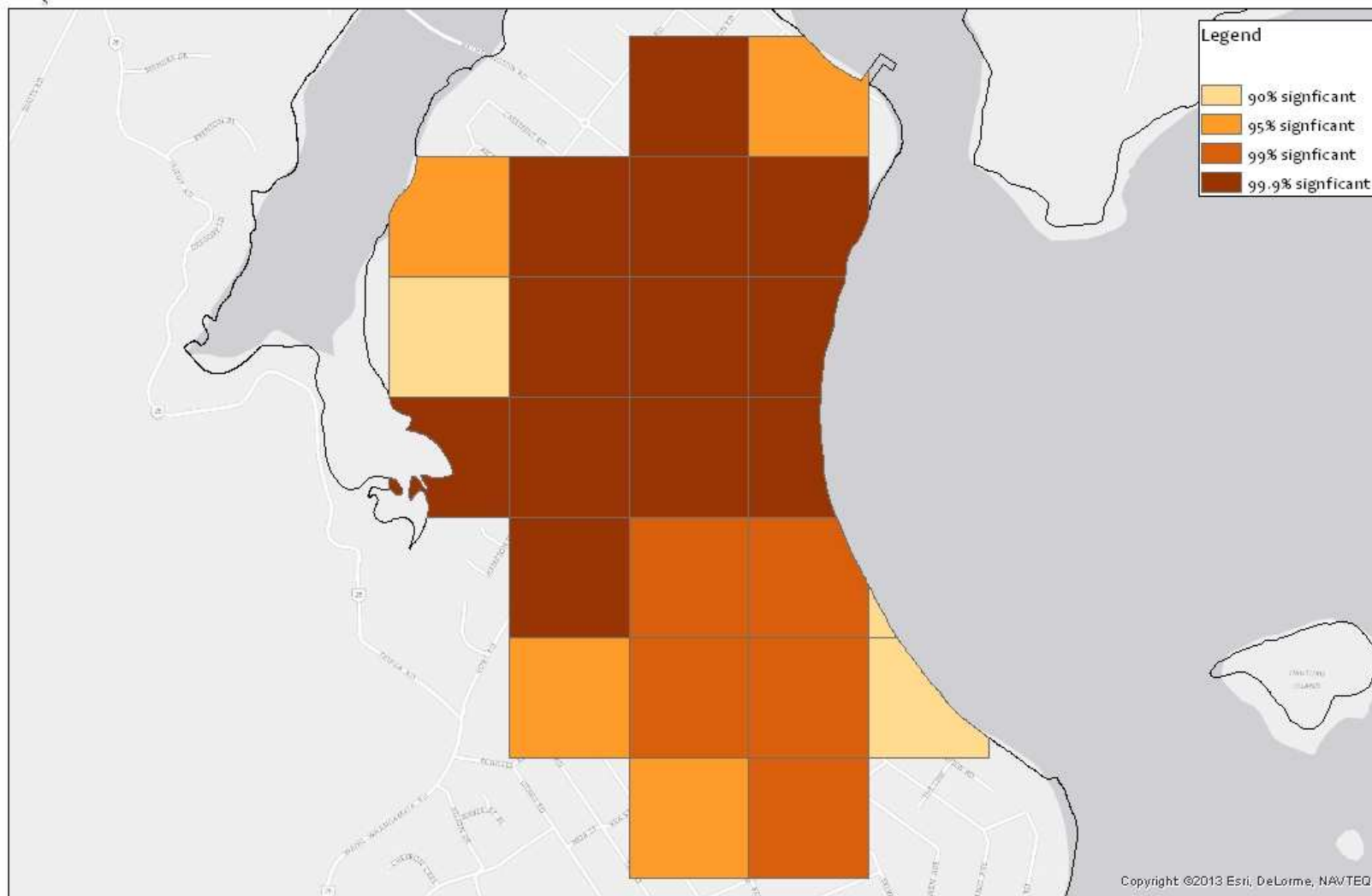


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2008 (Thames)



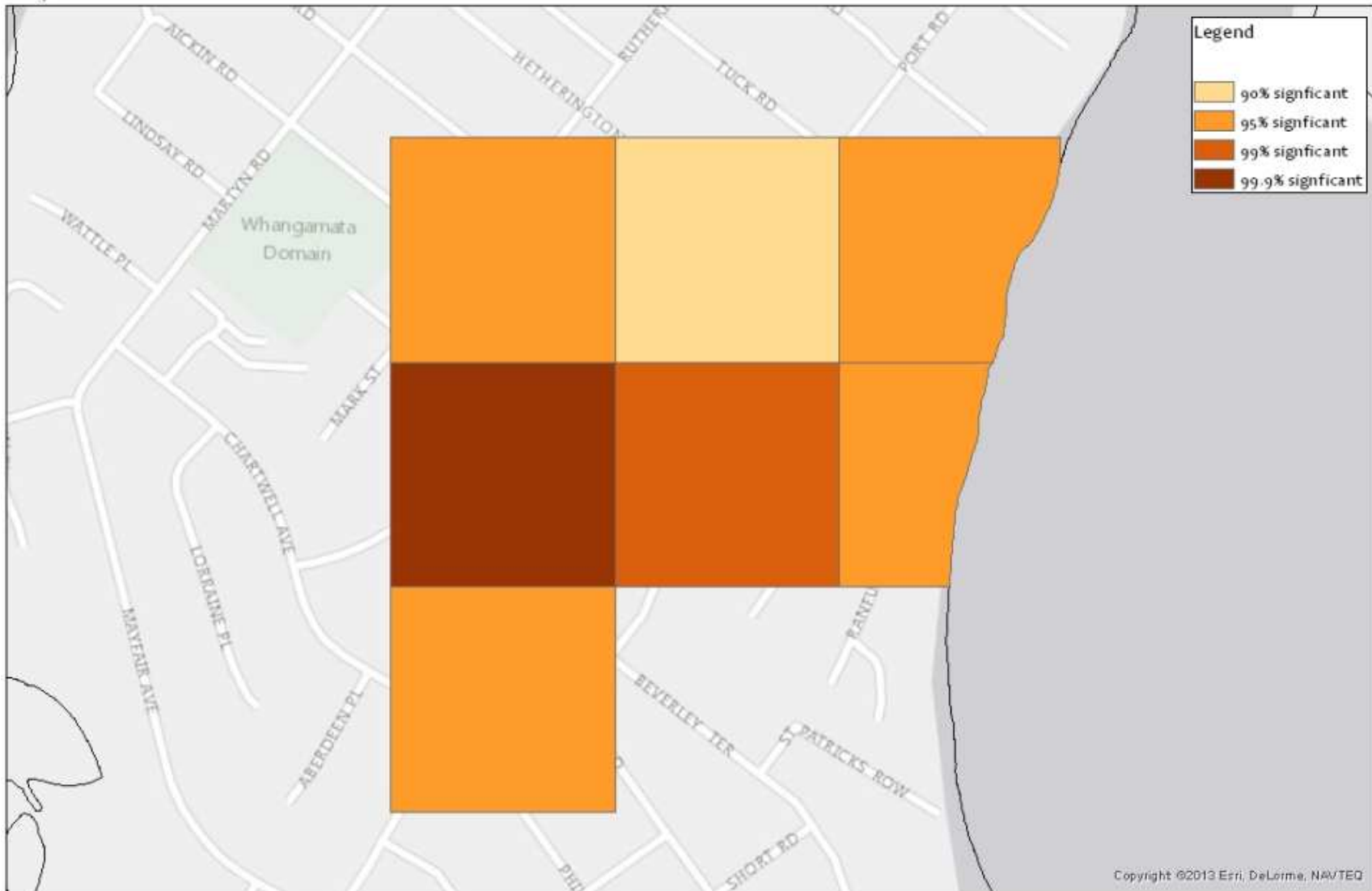


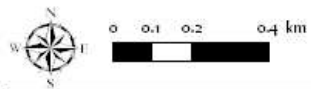
Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2008 (Whangamata)



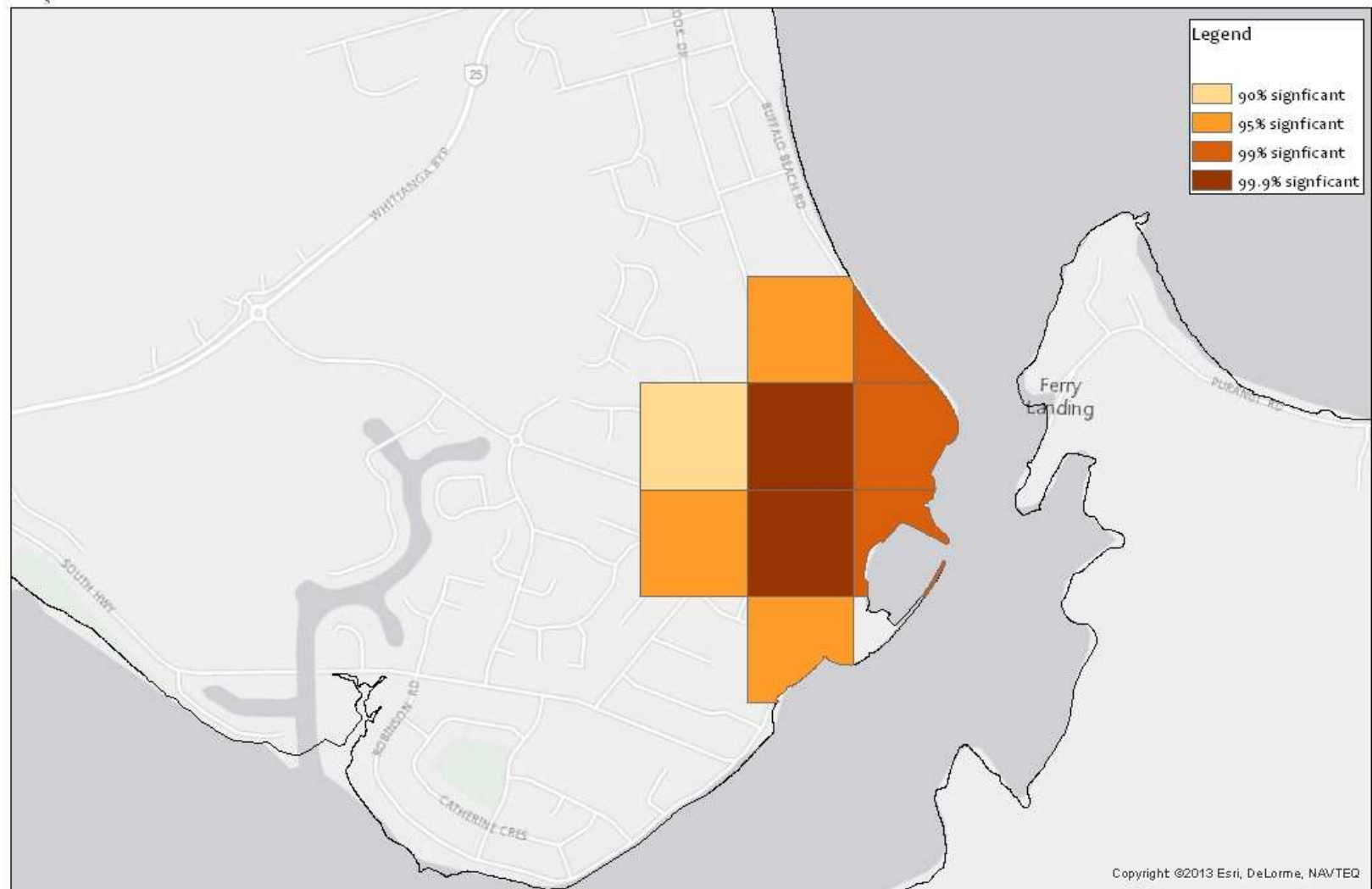


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2008 (Whangamata)





Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2008 (Whitianga)

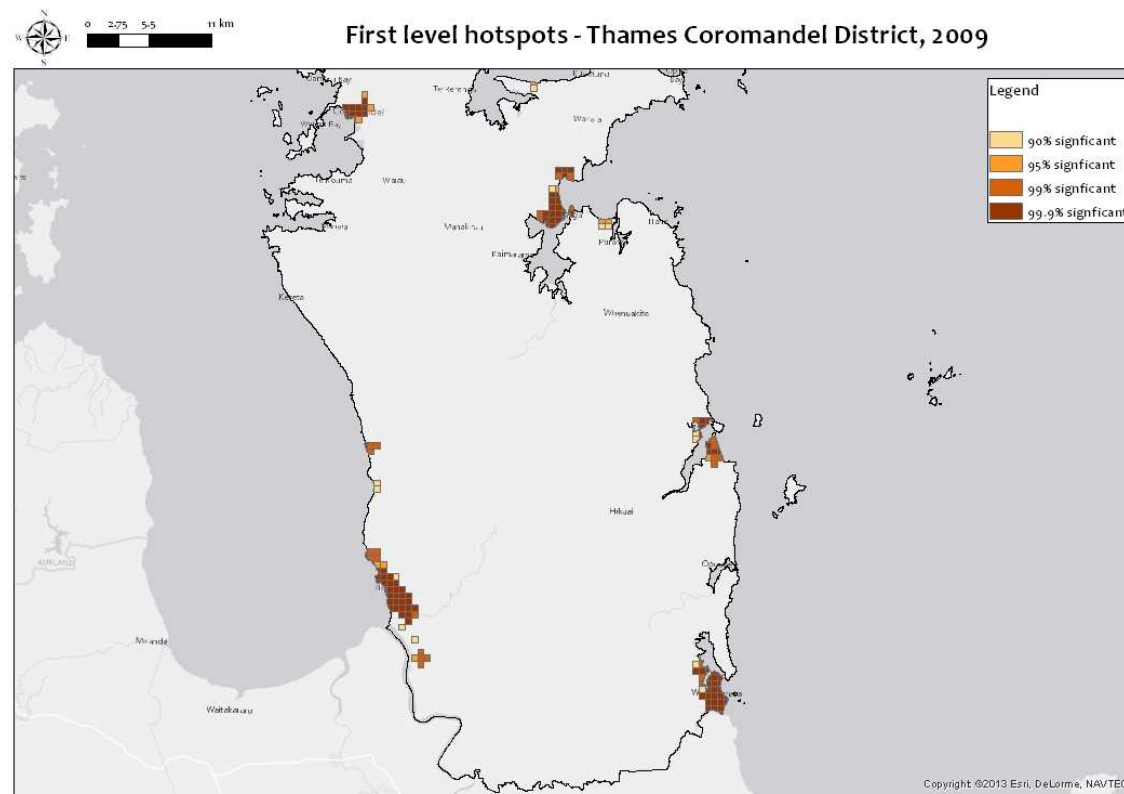




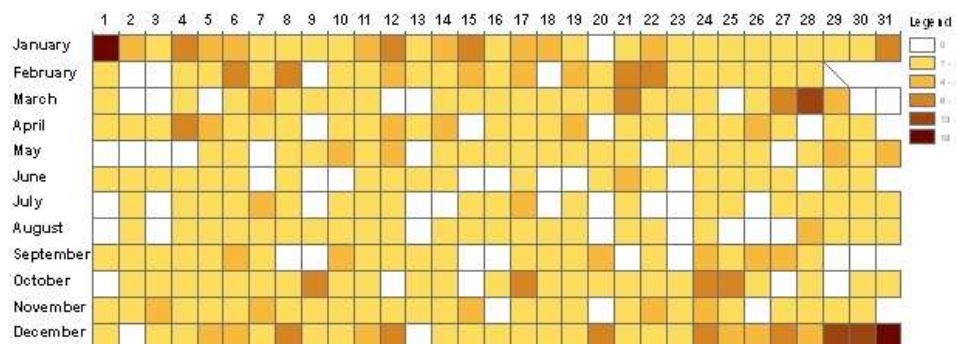
Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2008 (Whitianga)



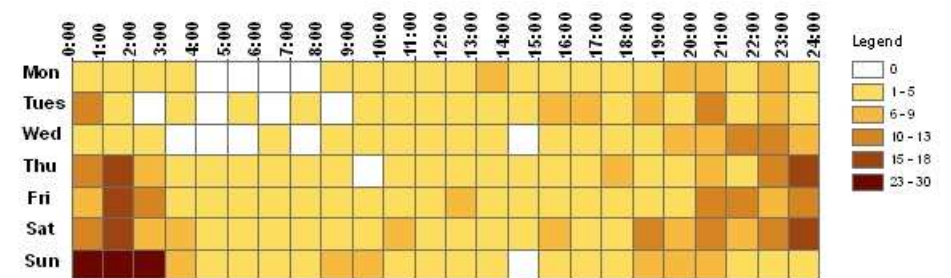
2009

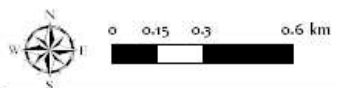


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2009

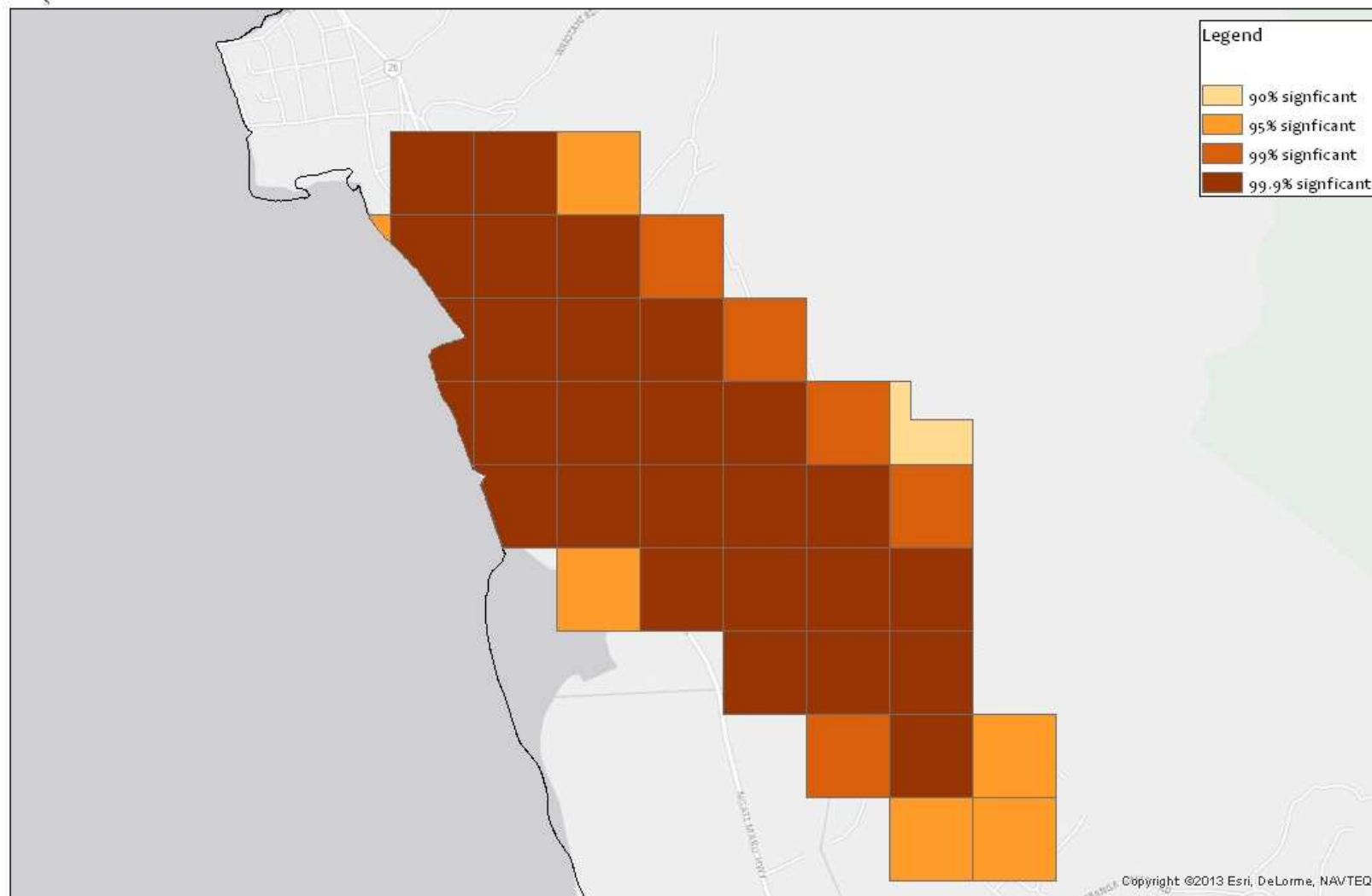


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2009



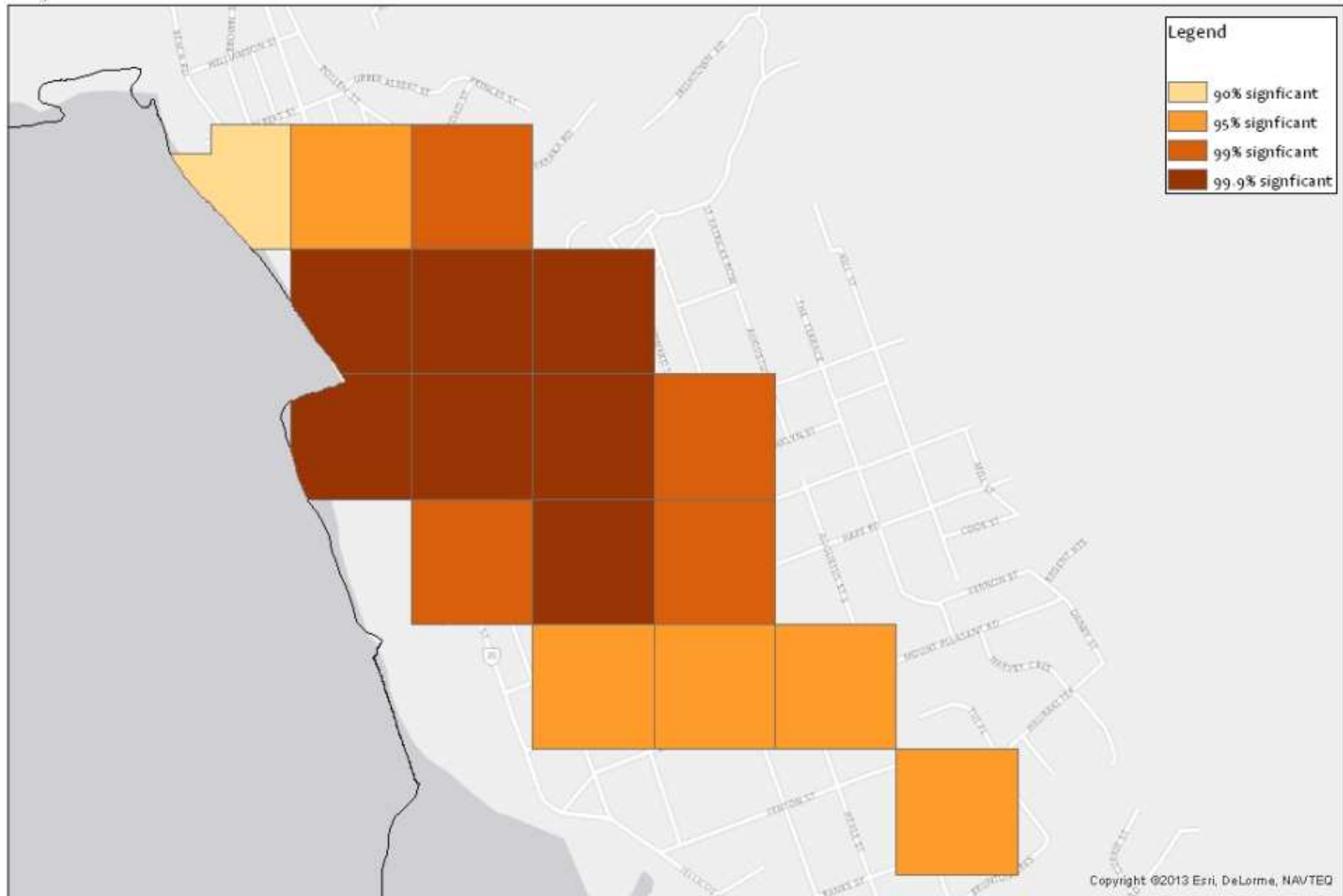


Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2009 (Thames)





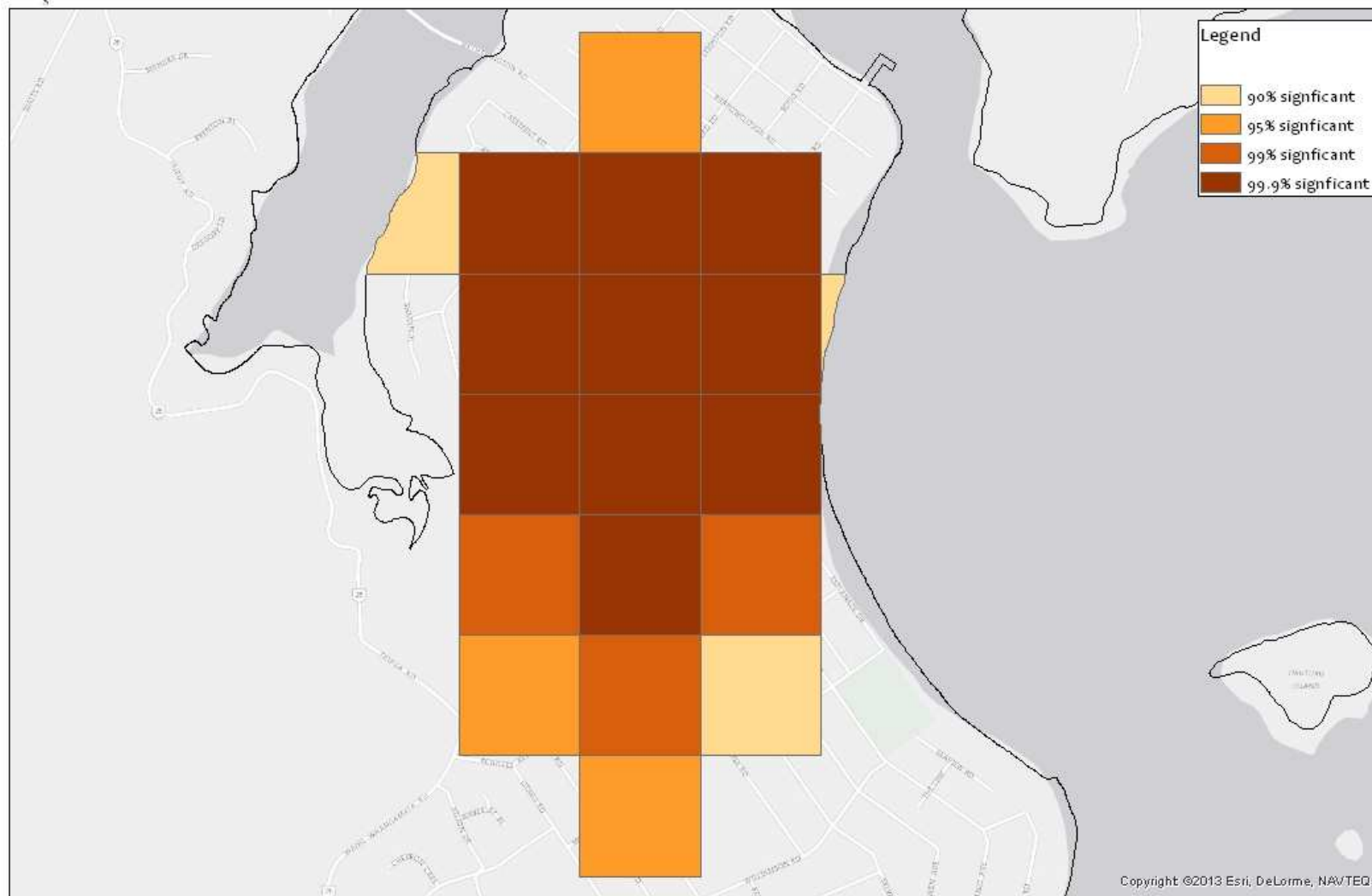
Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2009 (Thames)





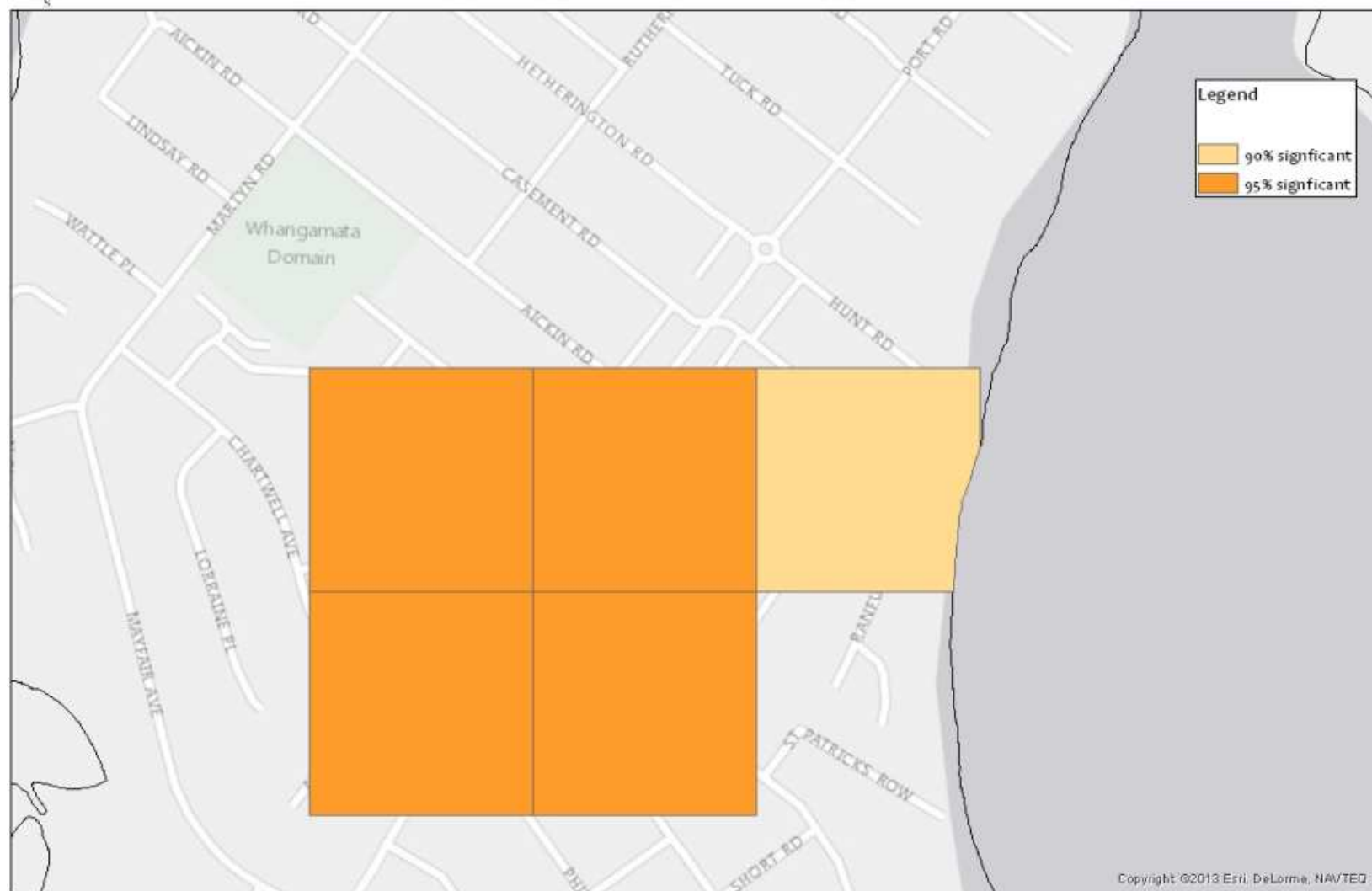
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2009 (Whangamata)



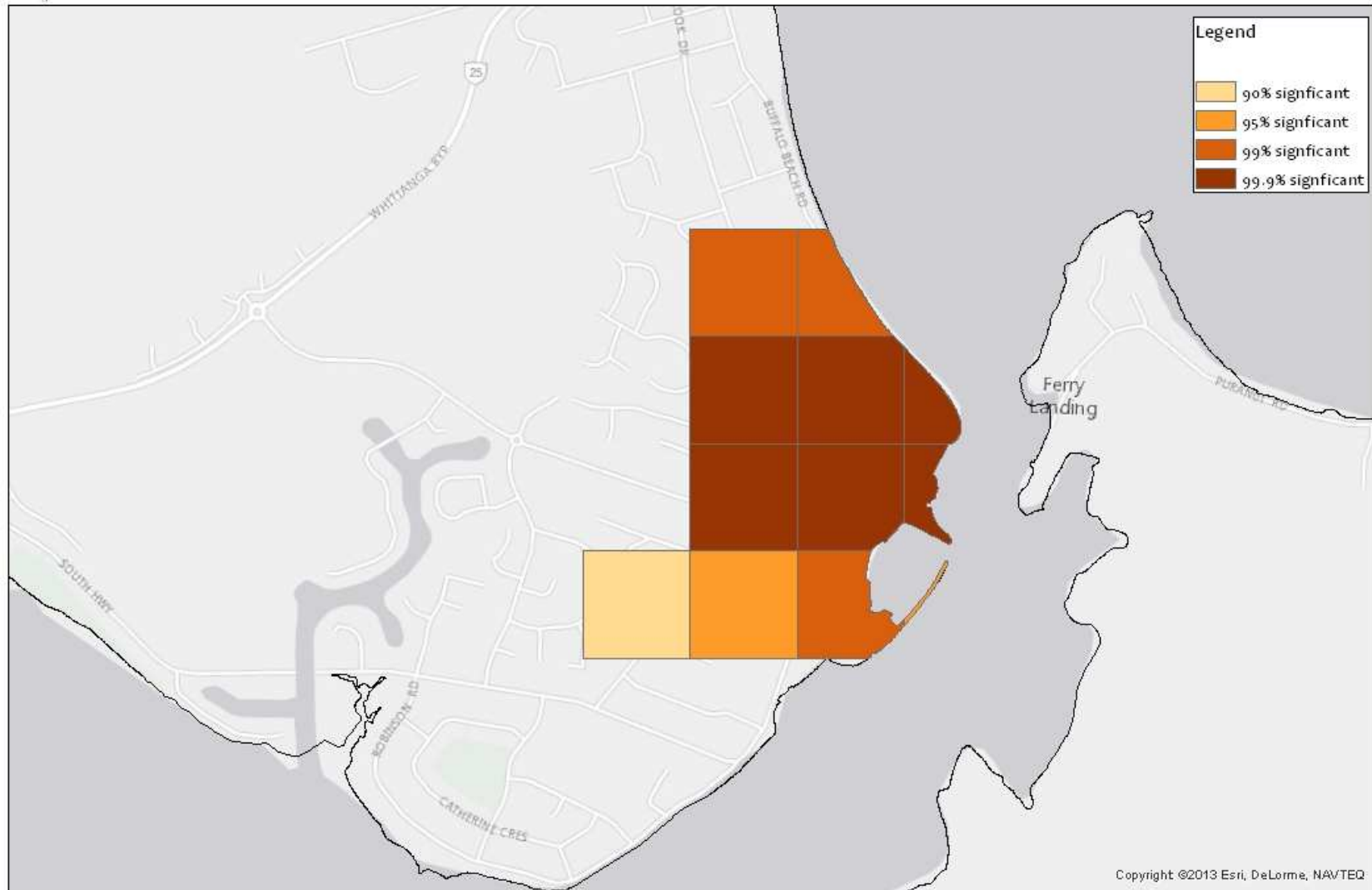


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2009 (Whangamata)





Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2009 (Whitianga)

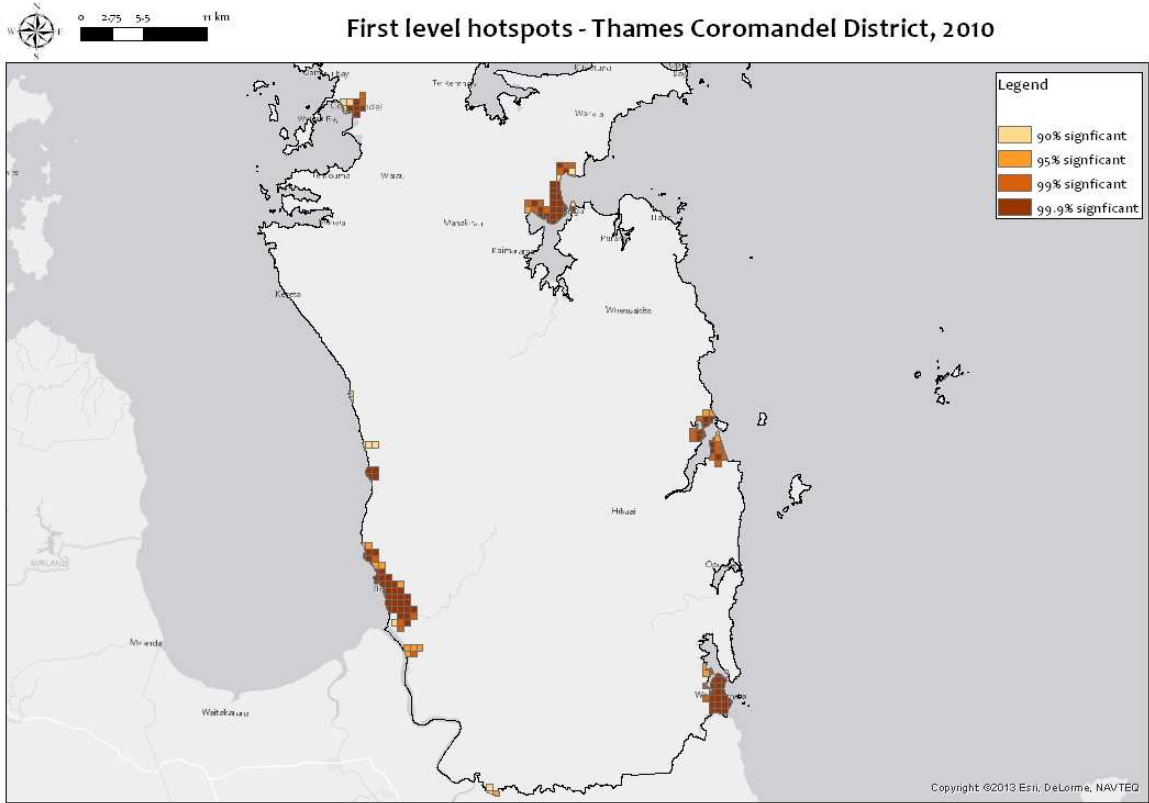




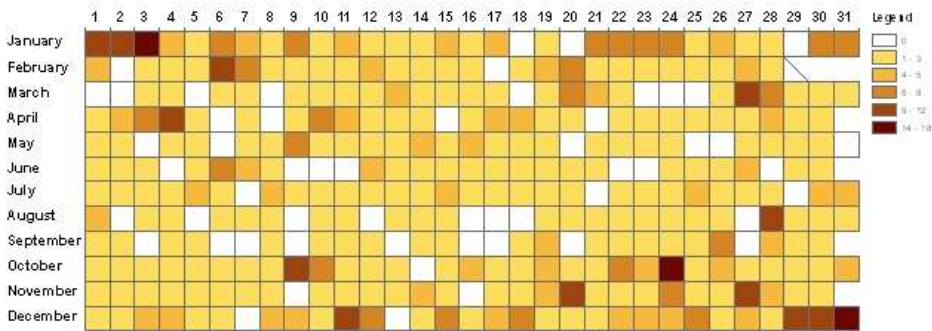
Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2009 (Whitianga)



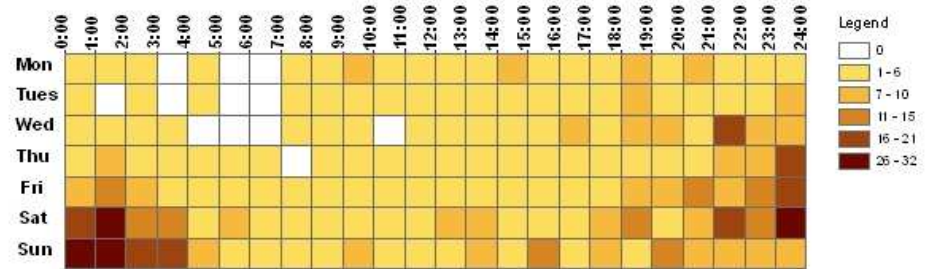
2010

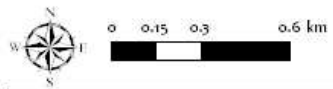


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2010

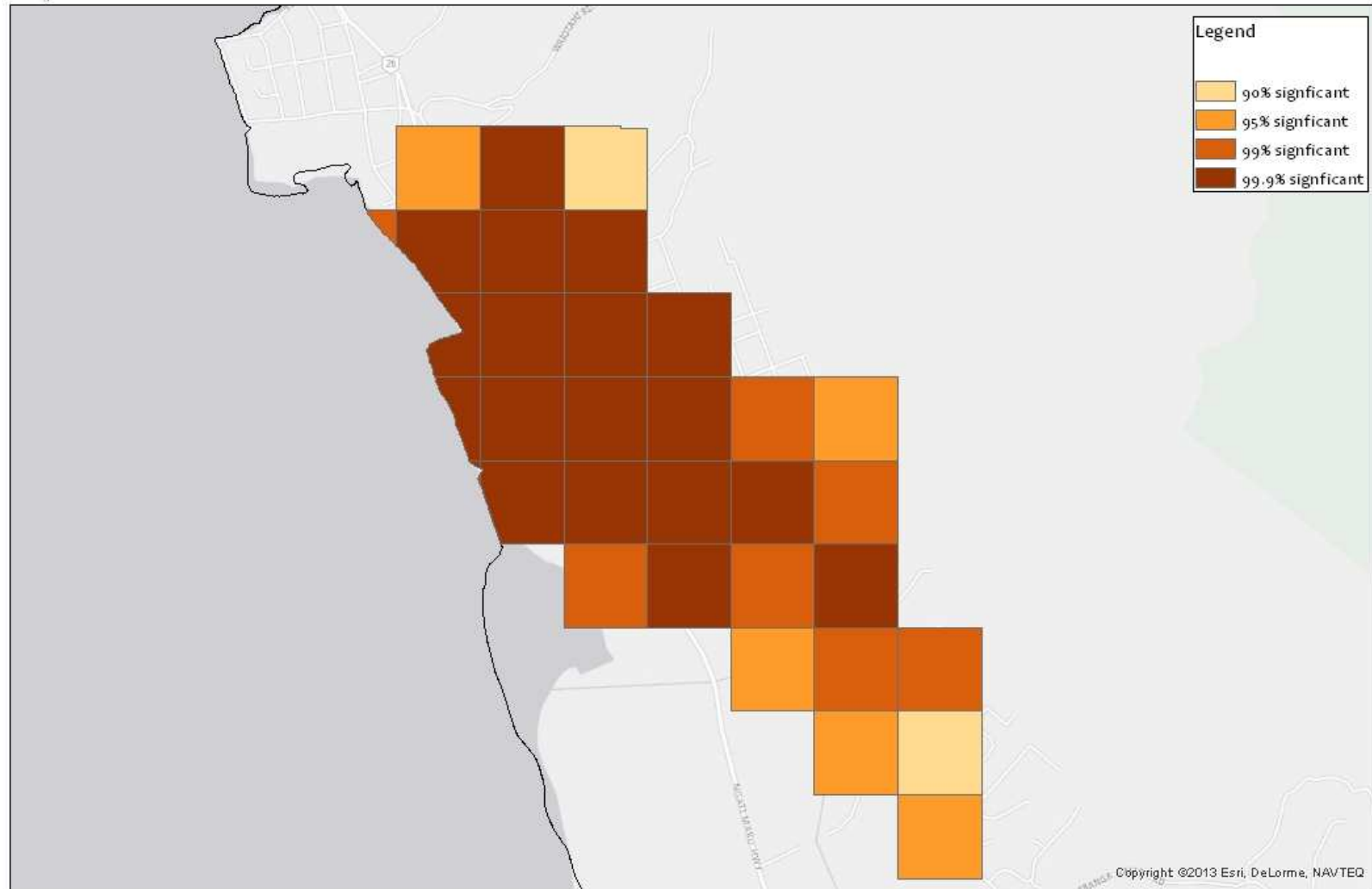


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2010



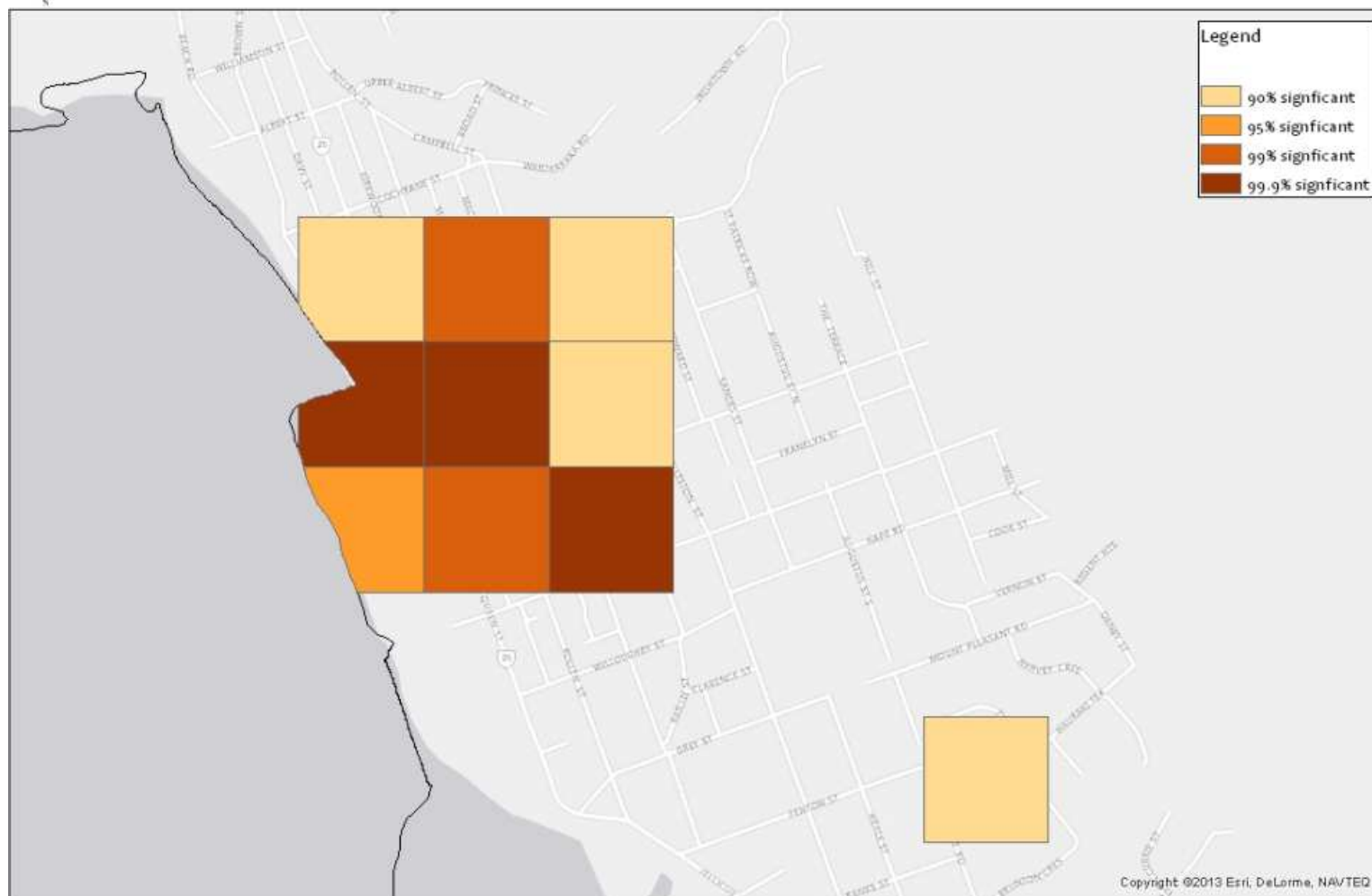


Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2010 (Thames)





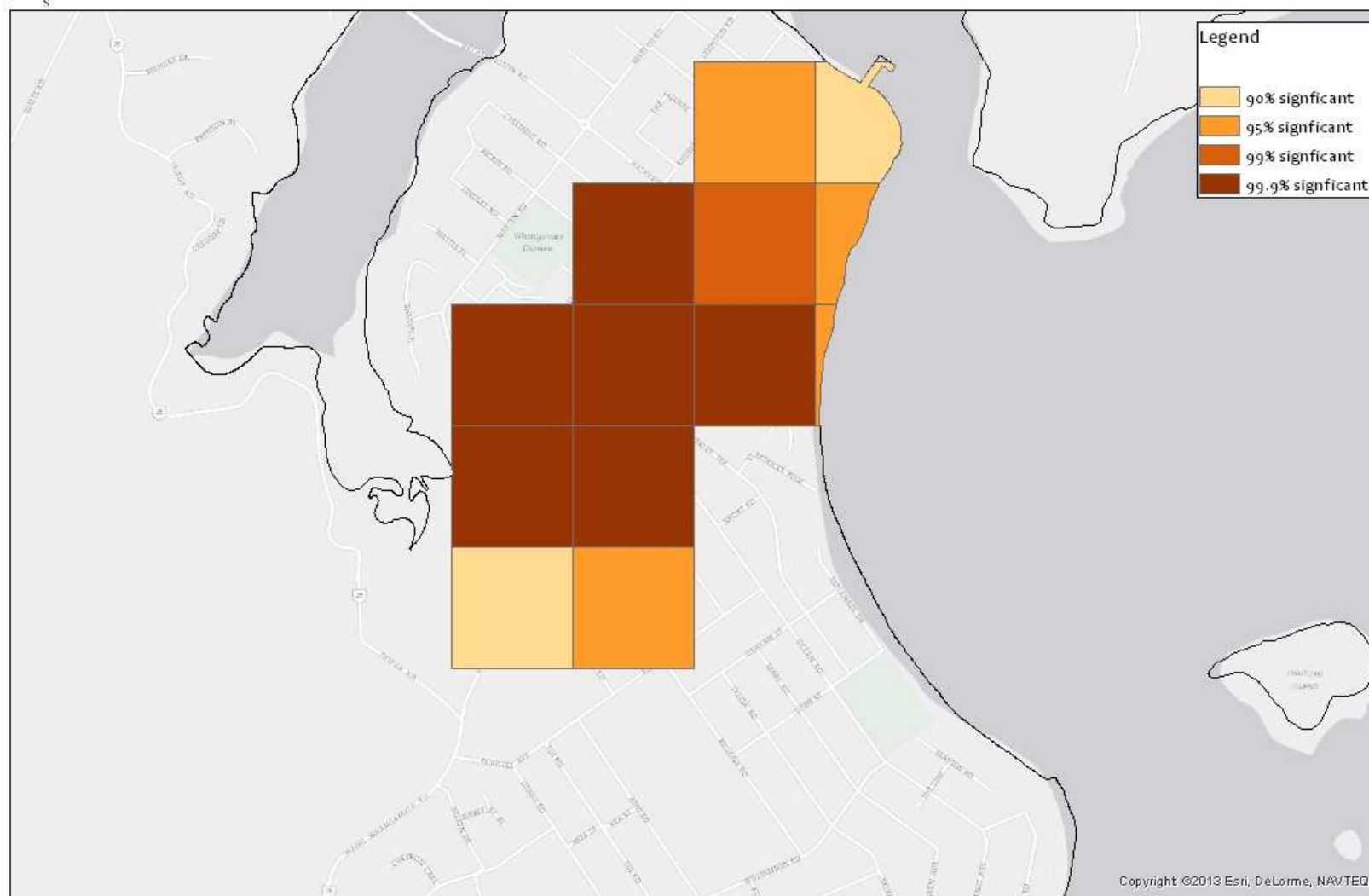
Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2010 (Thames)





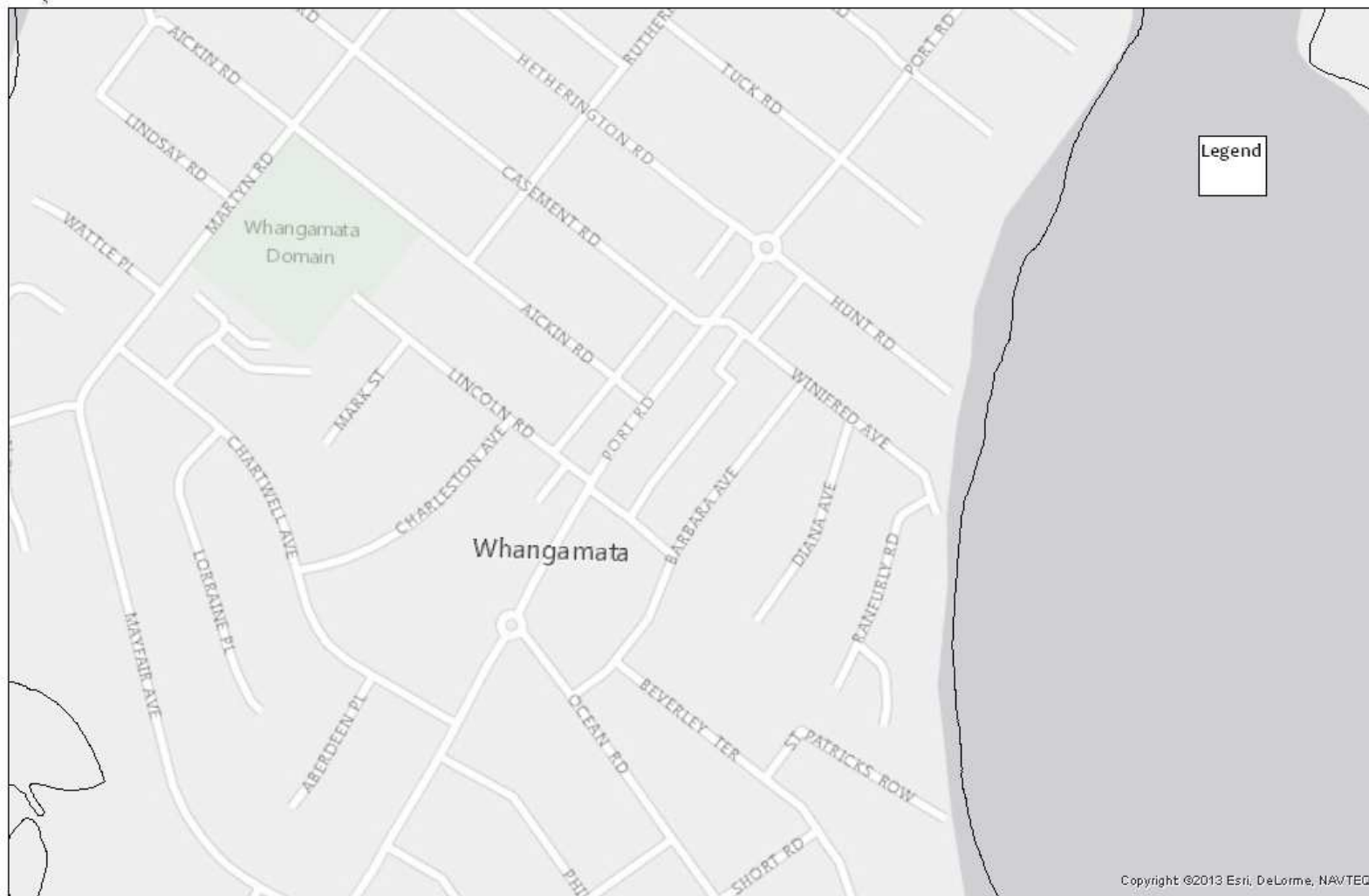
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2010 (Whangamata)





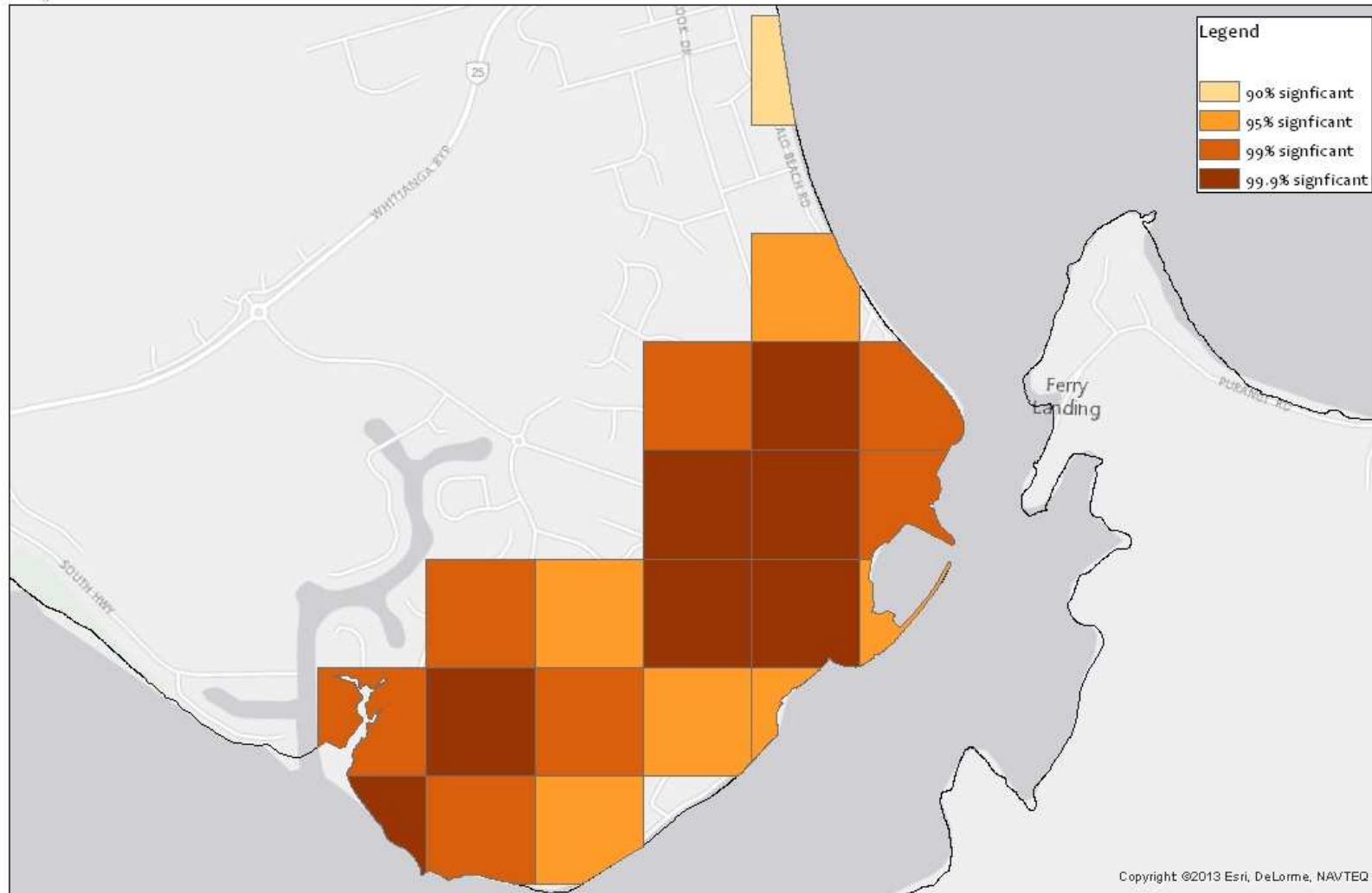
Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2010 (Whangamata)



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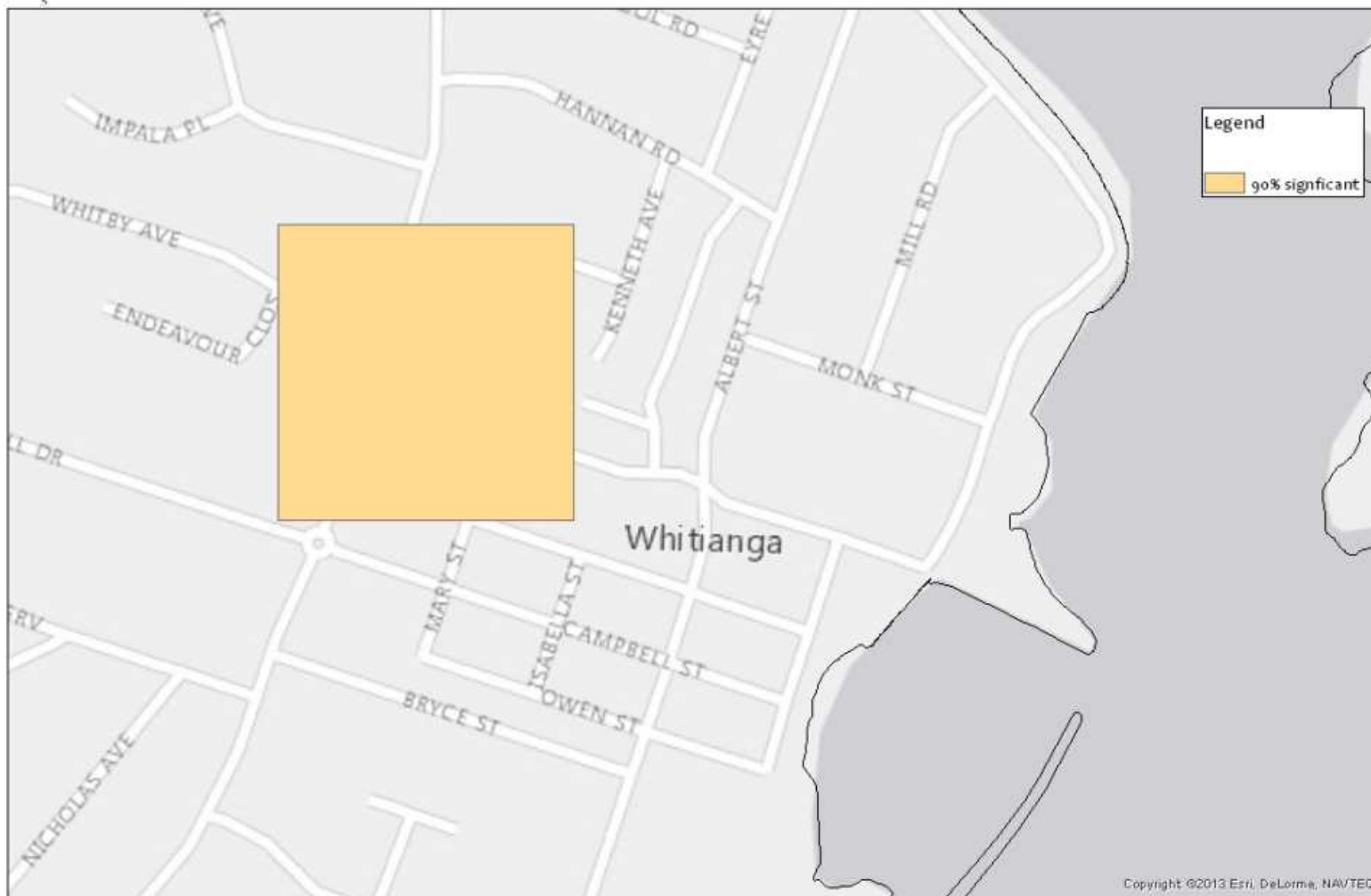


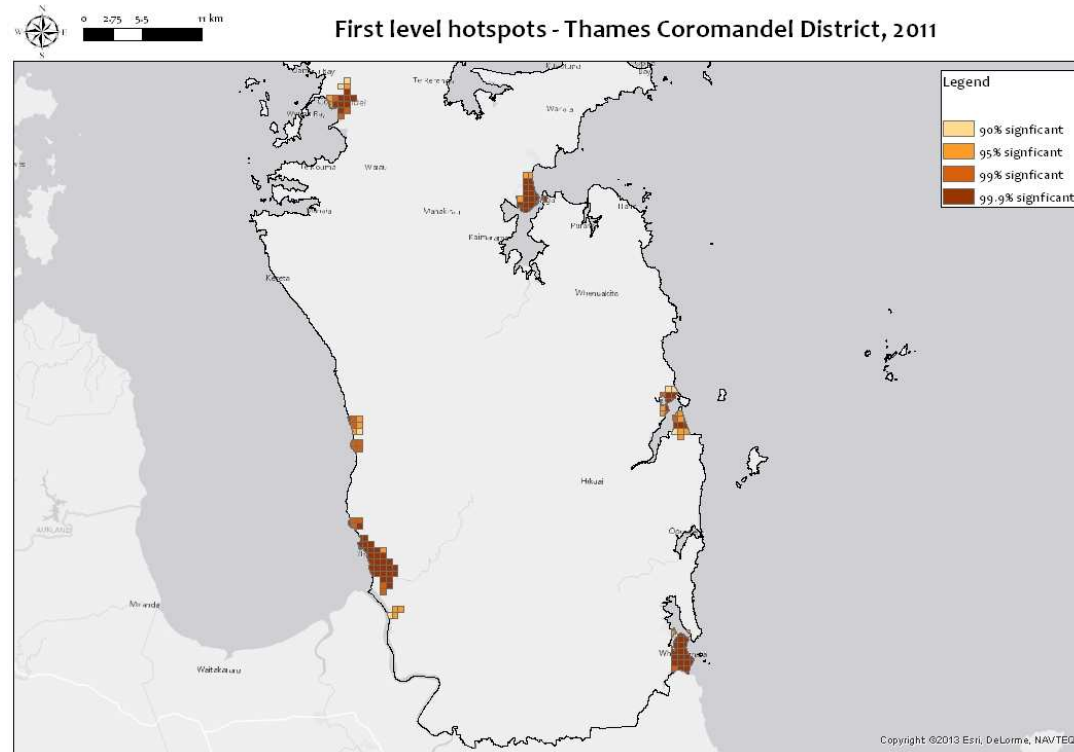
Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2010 (Whitianga)



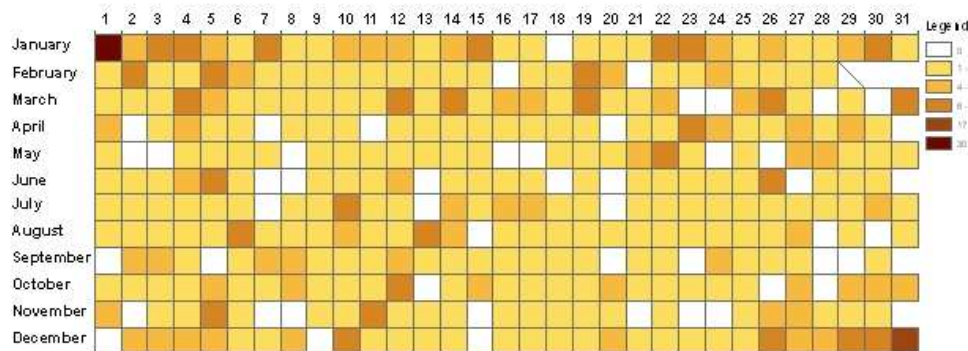


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2010 (Whitianga)

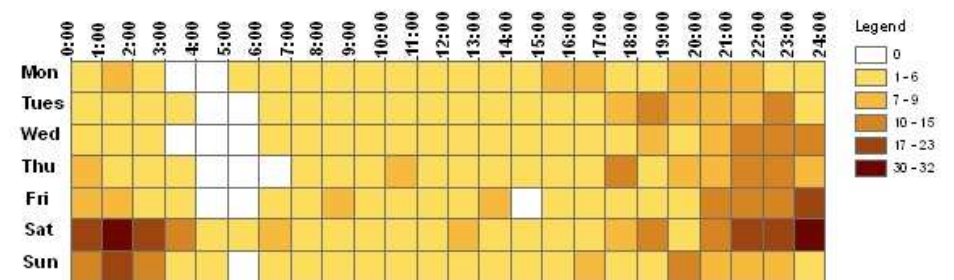


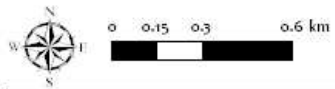


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2011

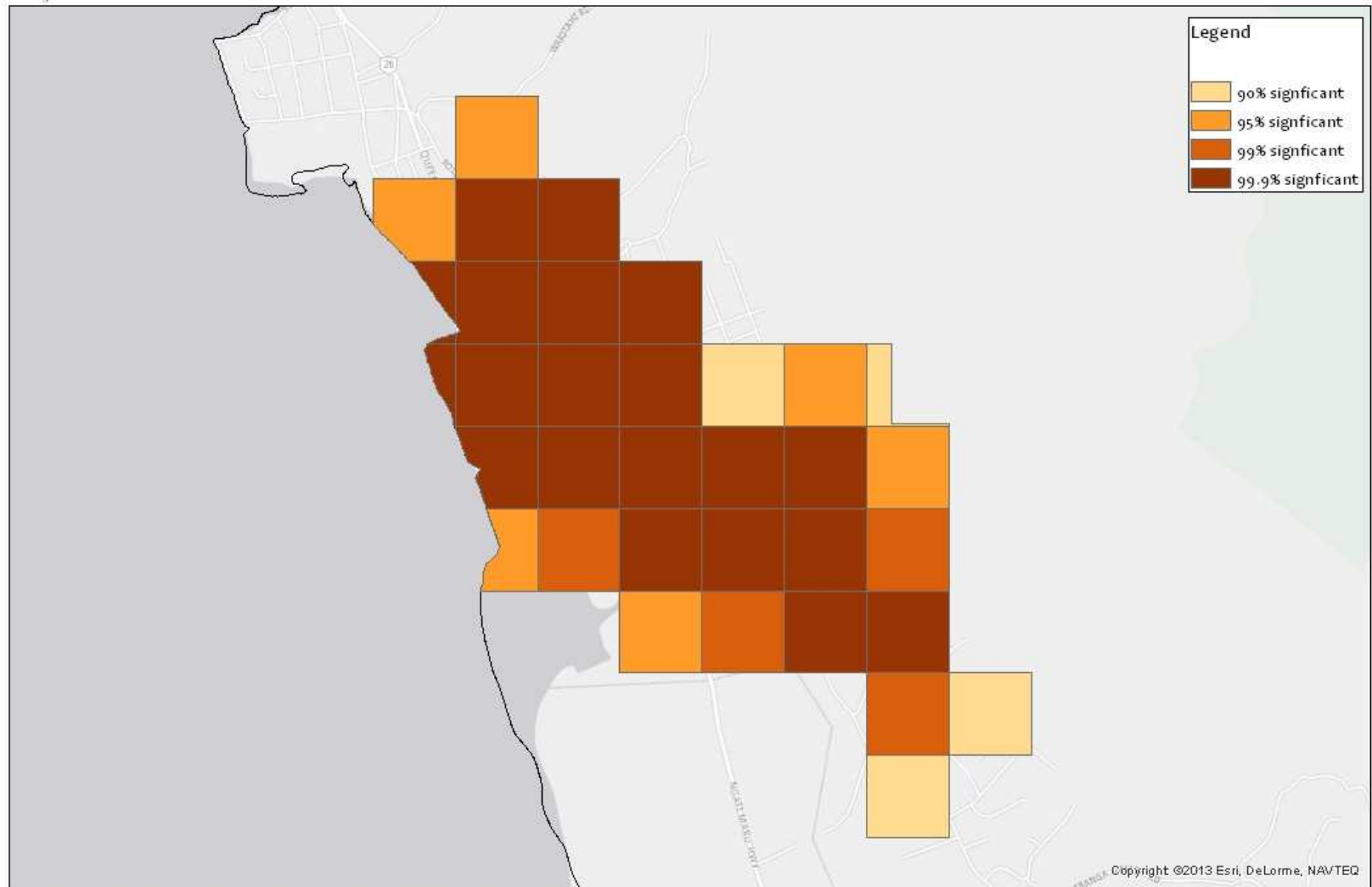


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2011



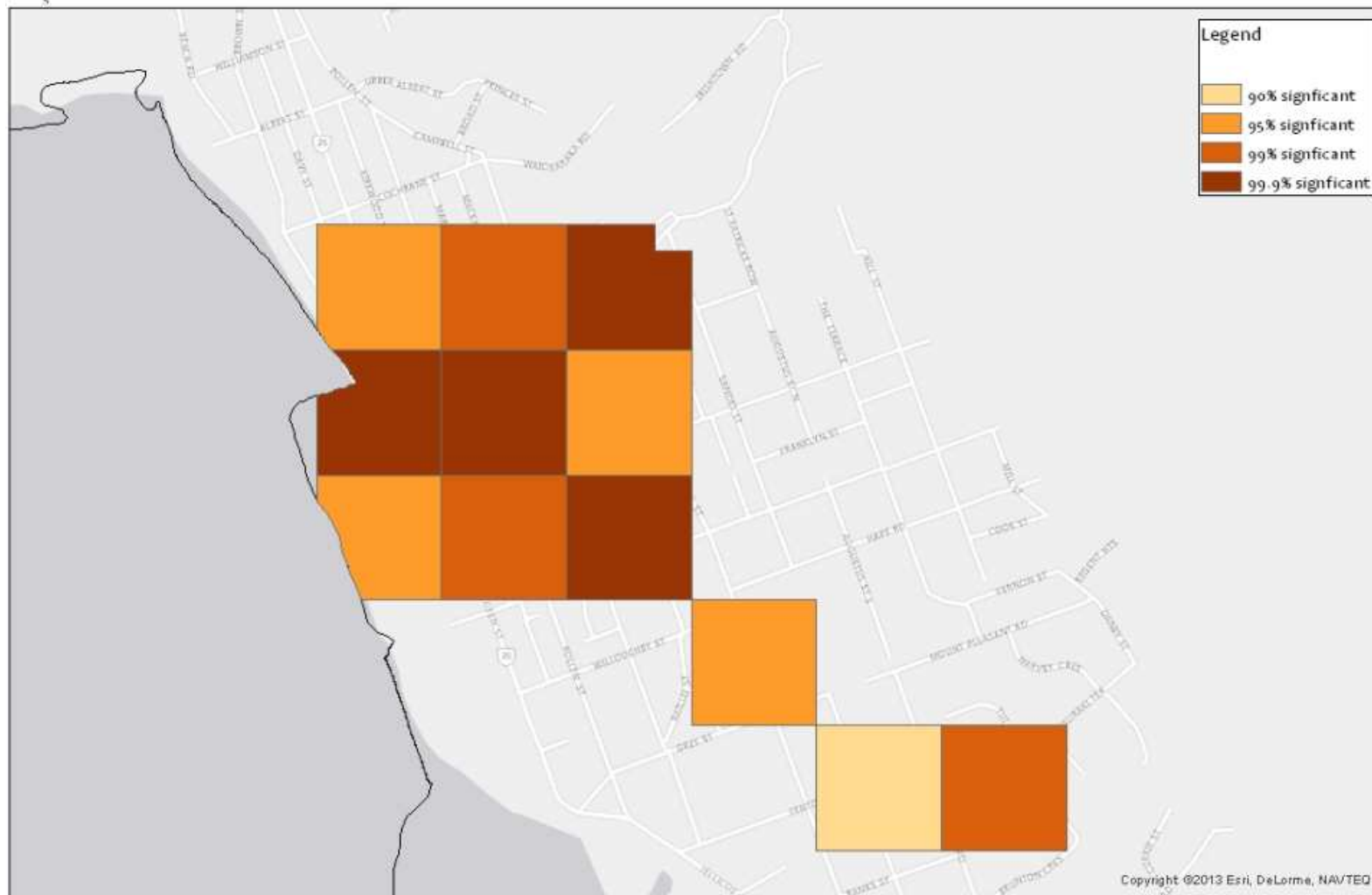


Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2011 (Thames)





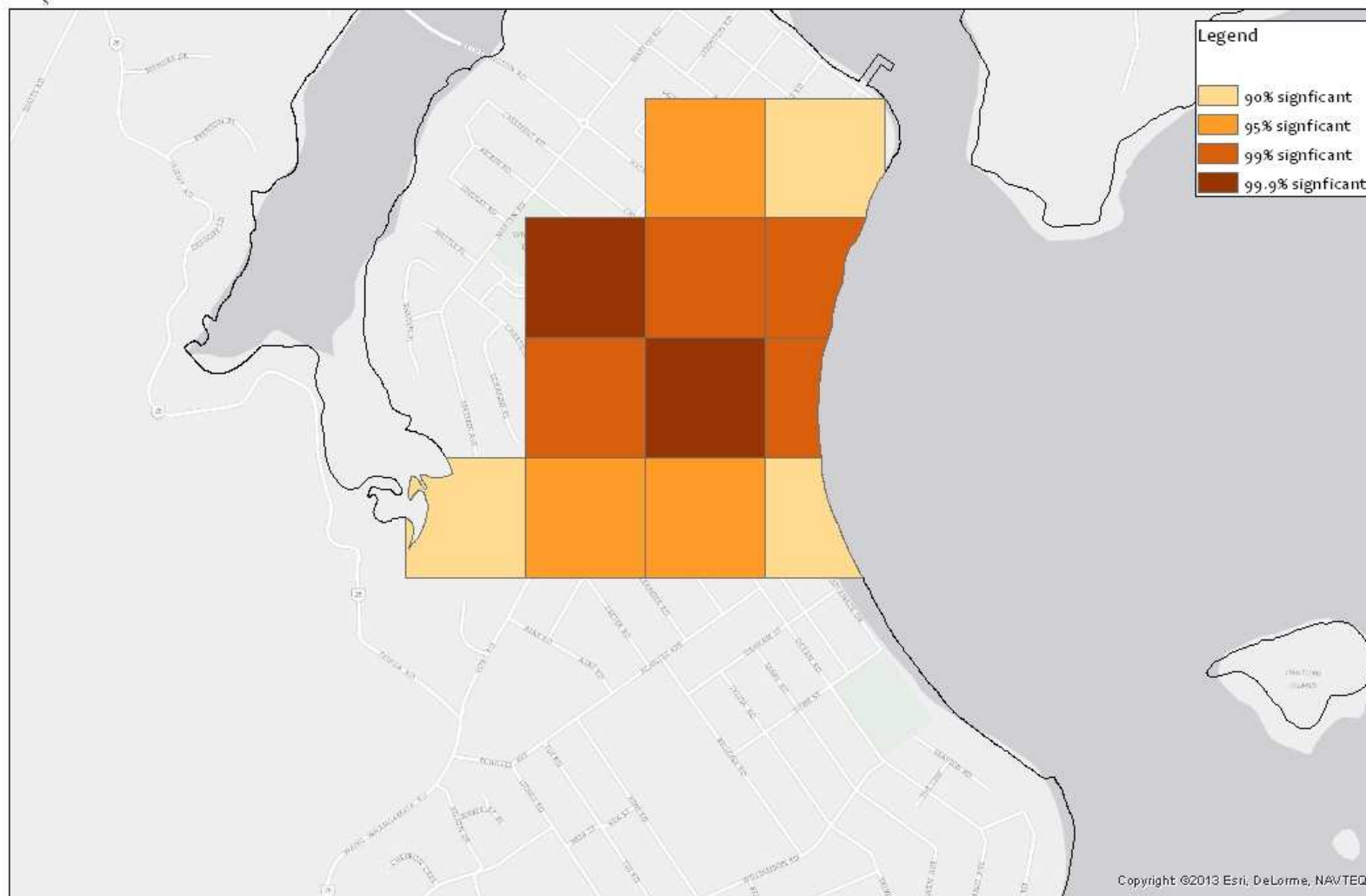
Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2011 (Thames)





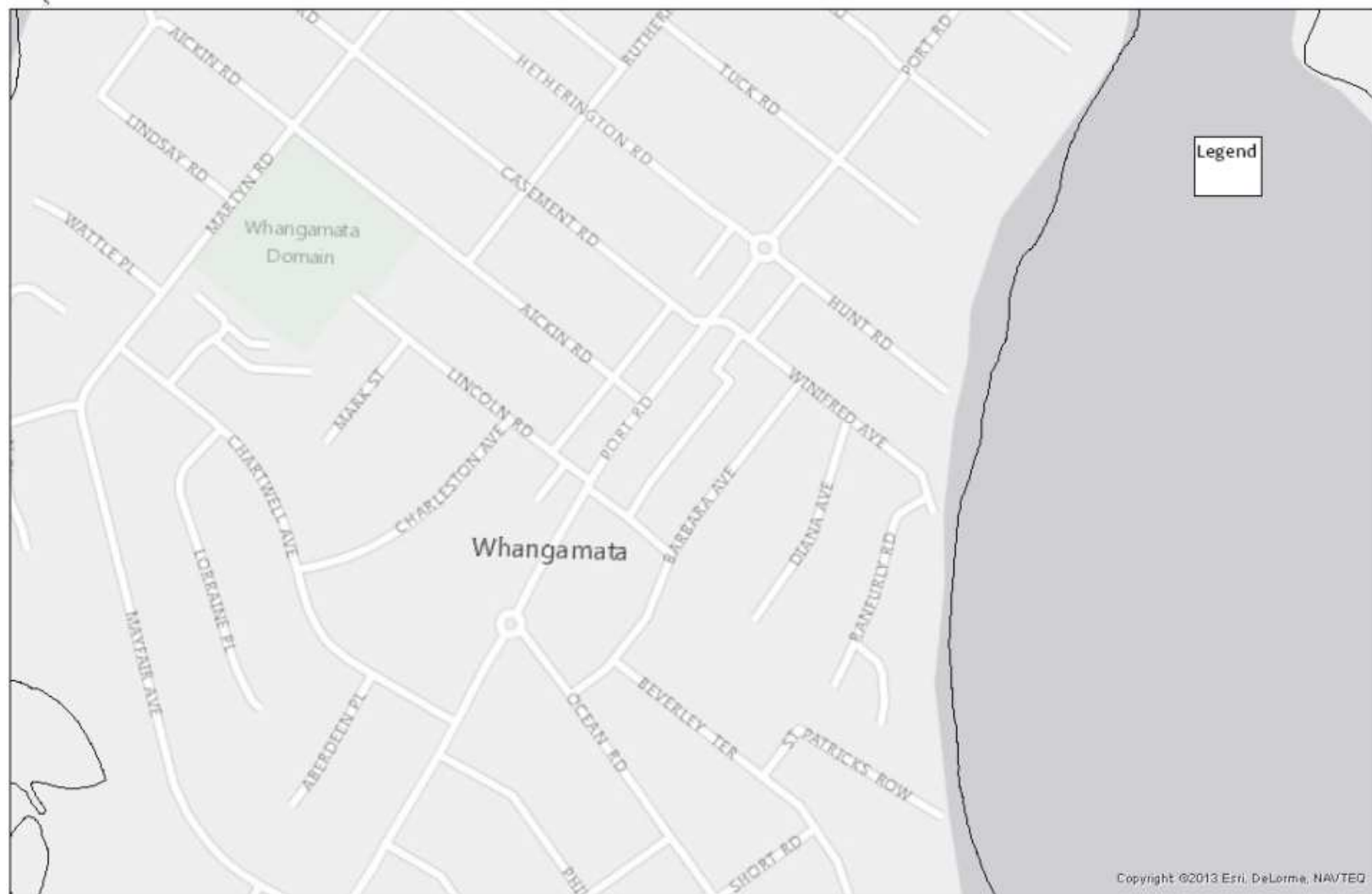
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km

Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2011 (Whangamata)



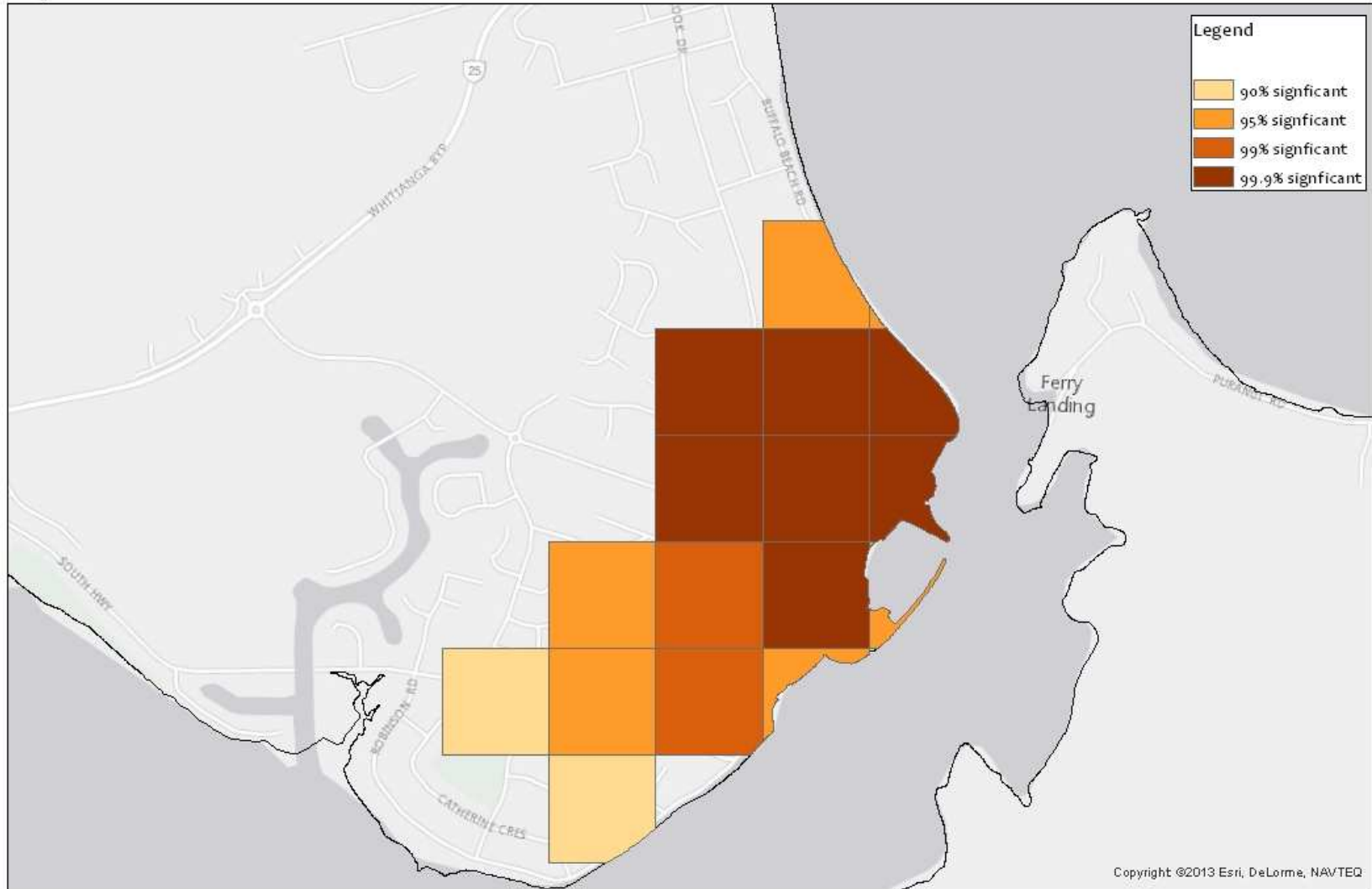


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2011 (Whangamata)



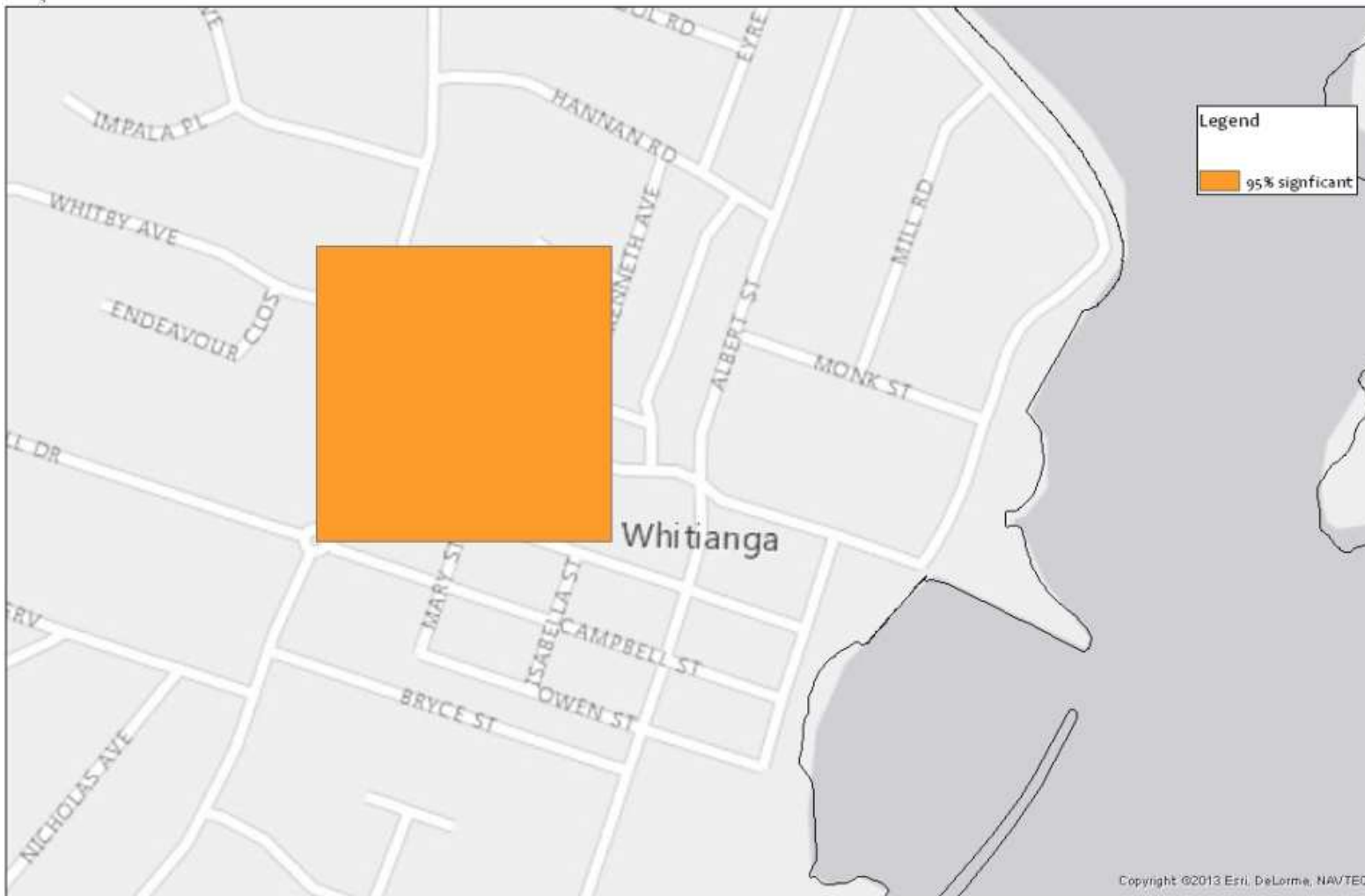


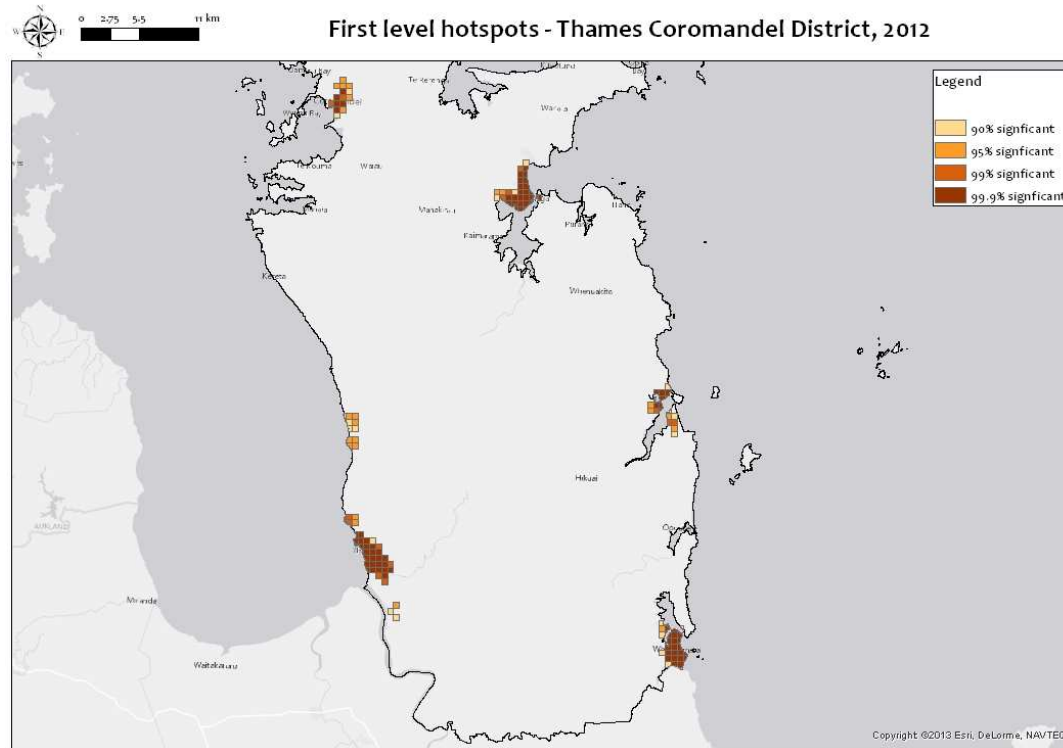
Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2011 (Whitianga)



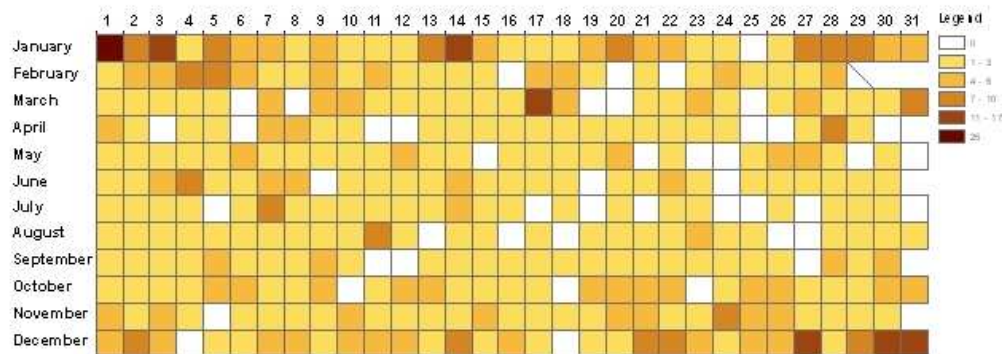


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2011 (Whitianga)

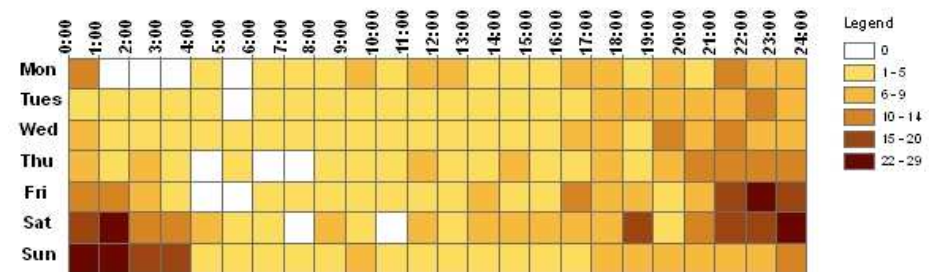


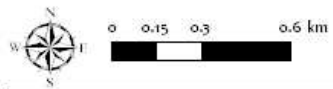


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2012

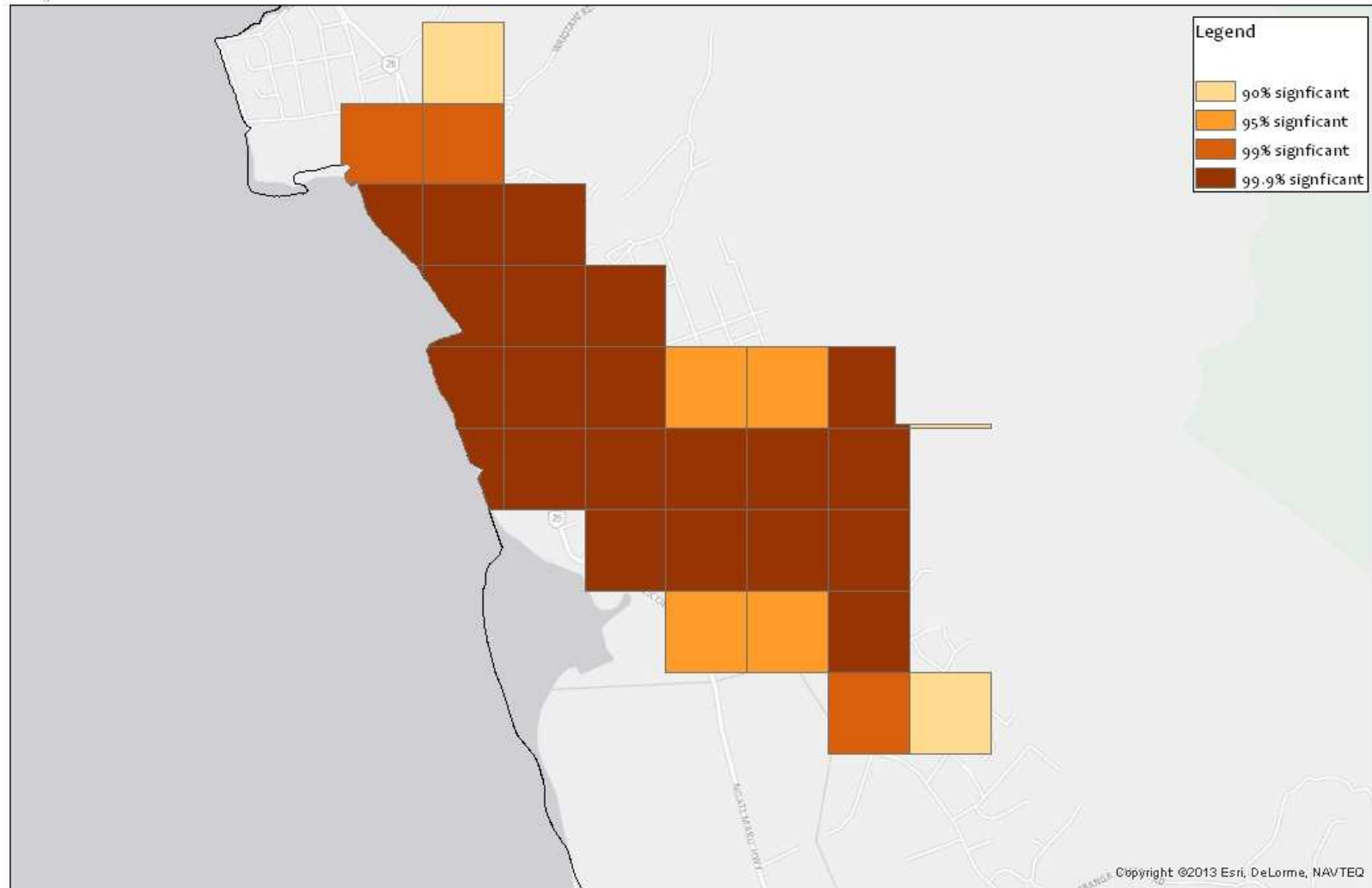


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Thames Coromandel District, 2012



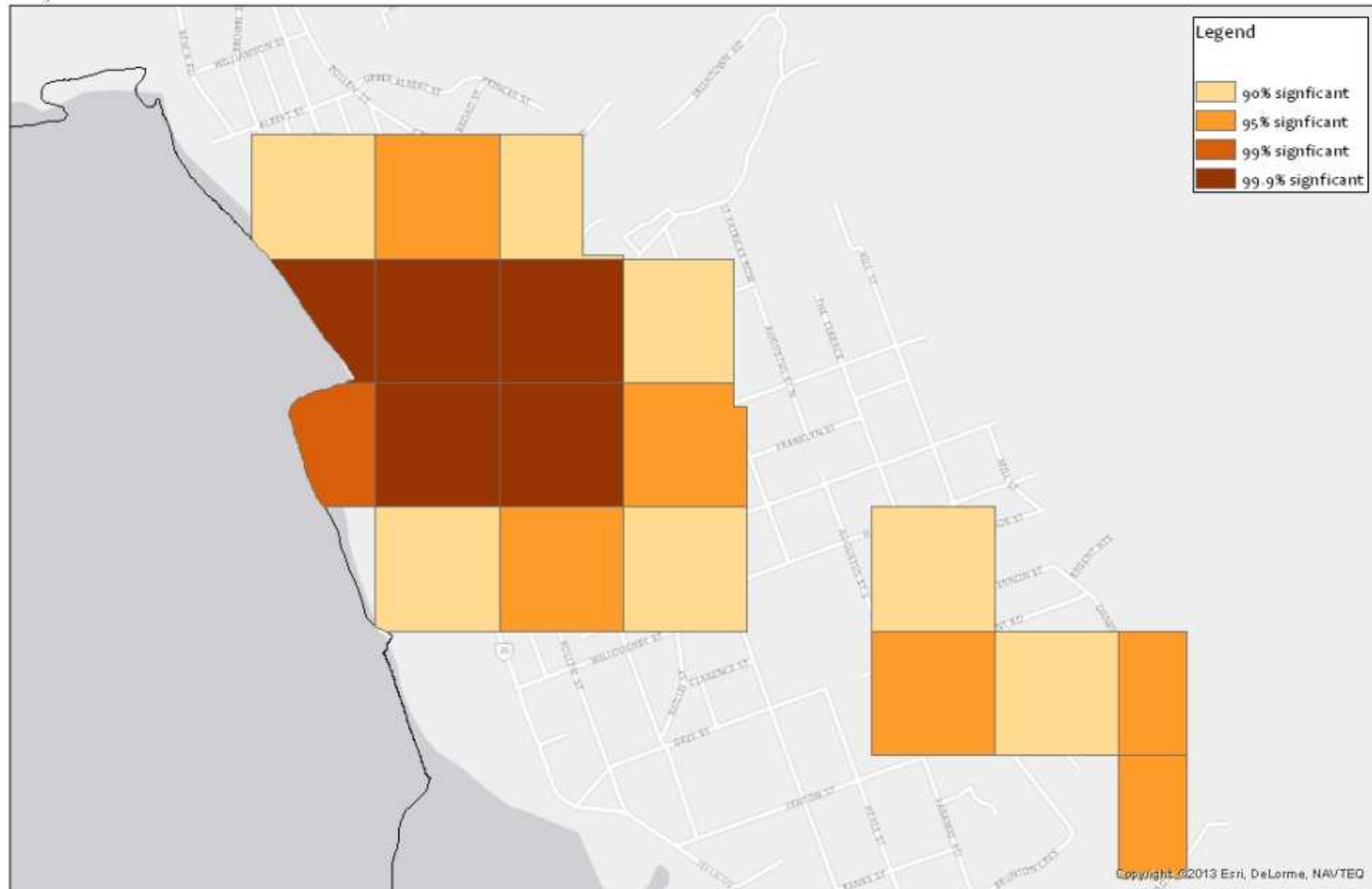


Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2012 (Thames)



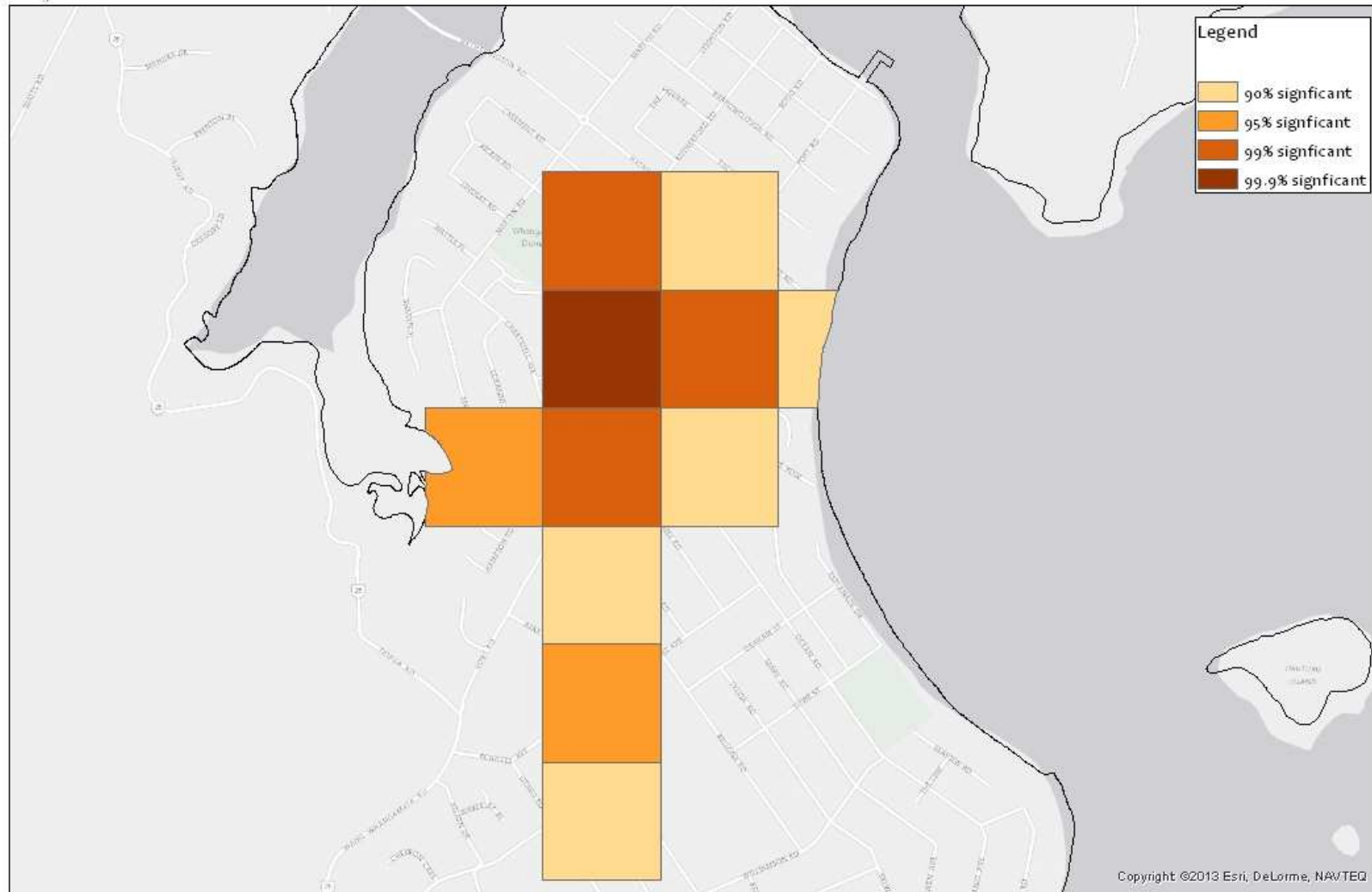


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2012 (Thames)





Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2012 (Whangamata)



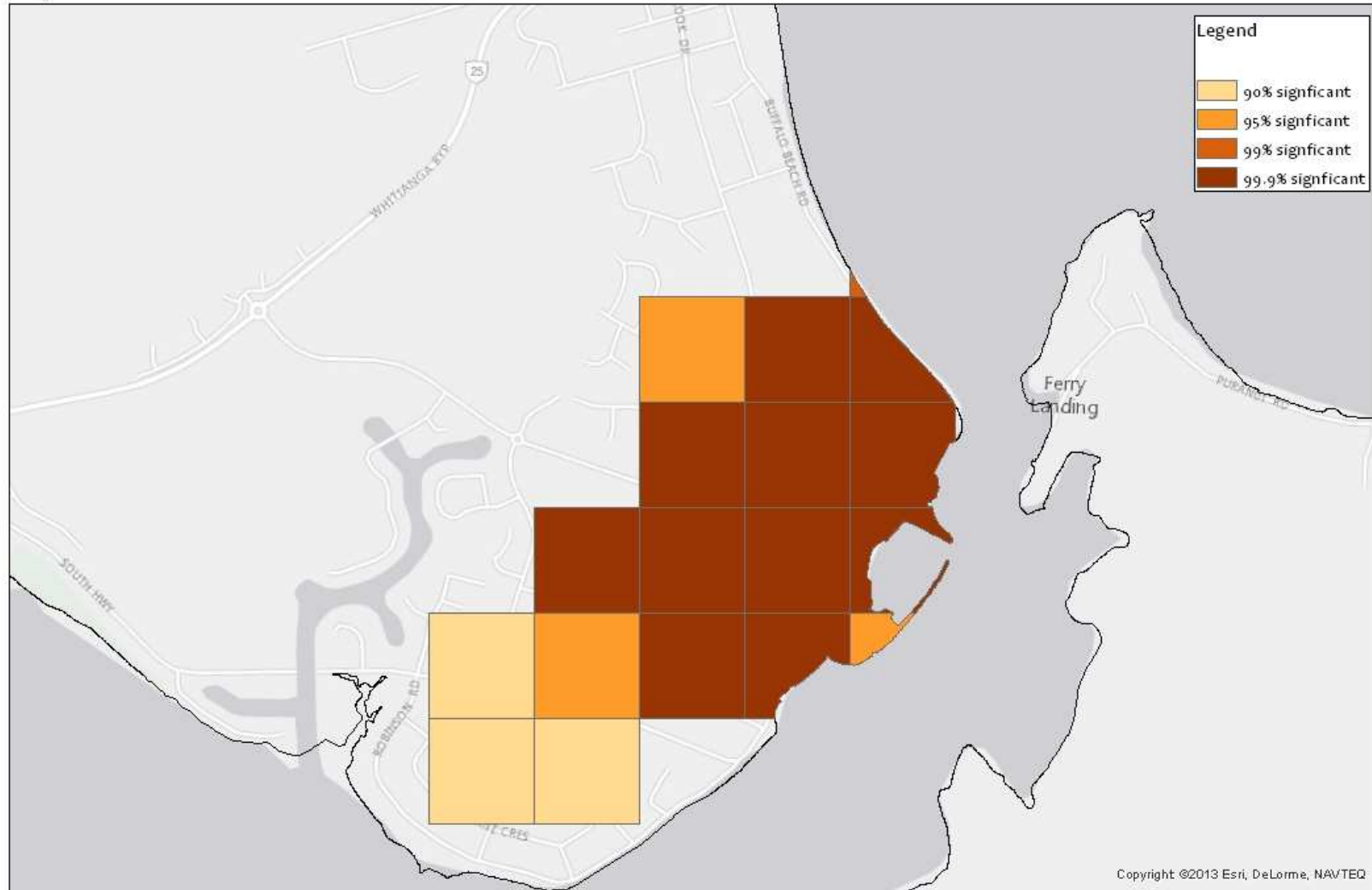


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2012 (Whangamata)



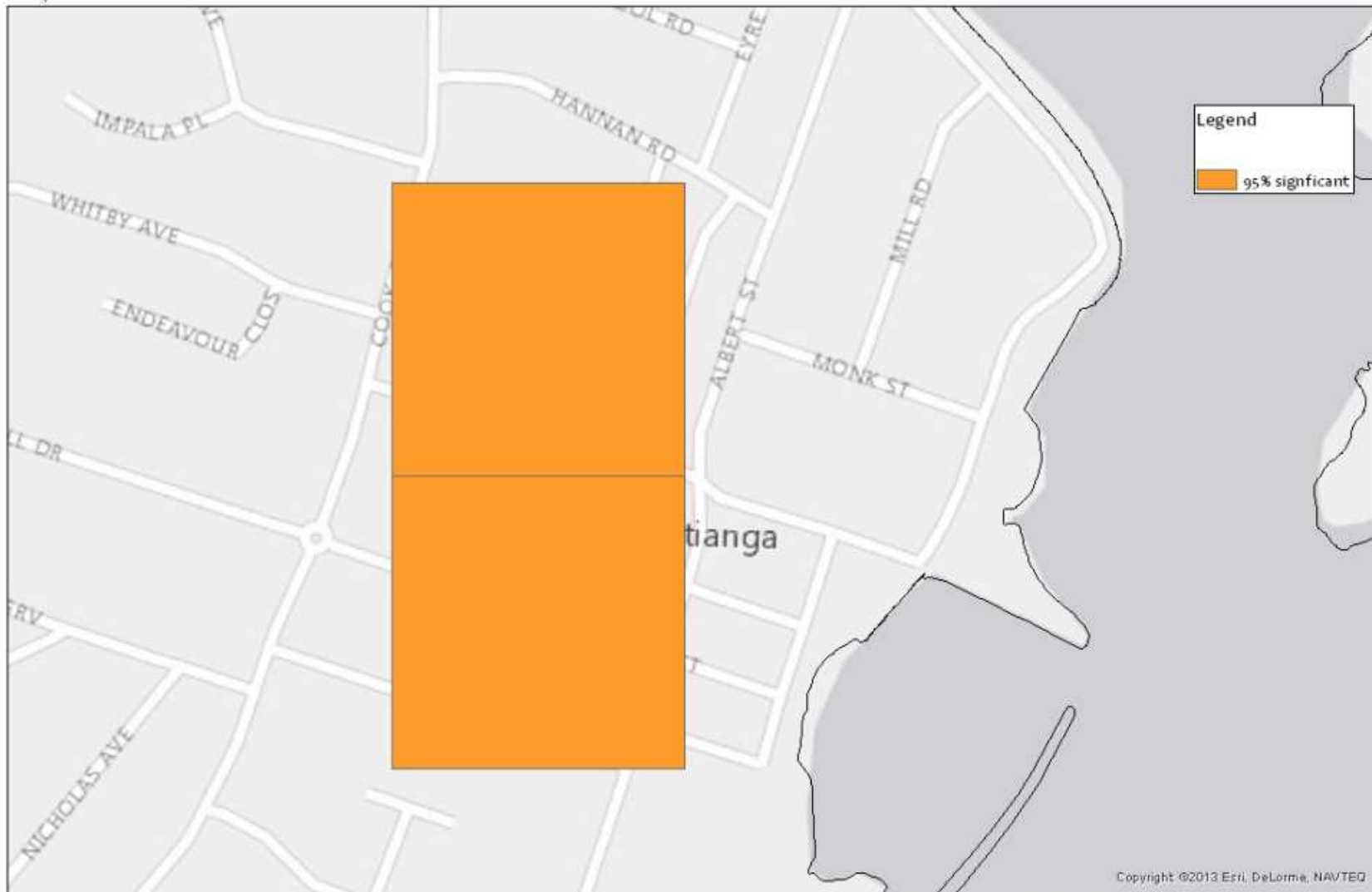


Second level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2012 (Whitianga)

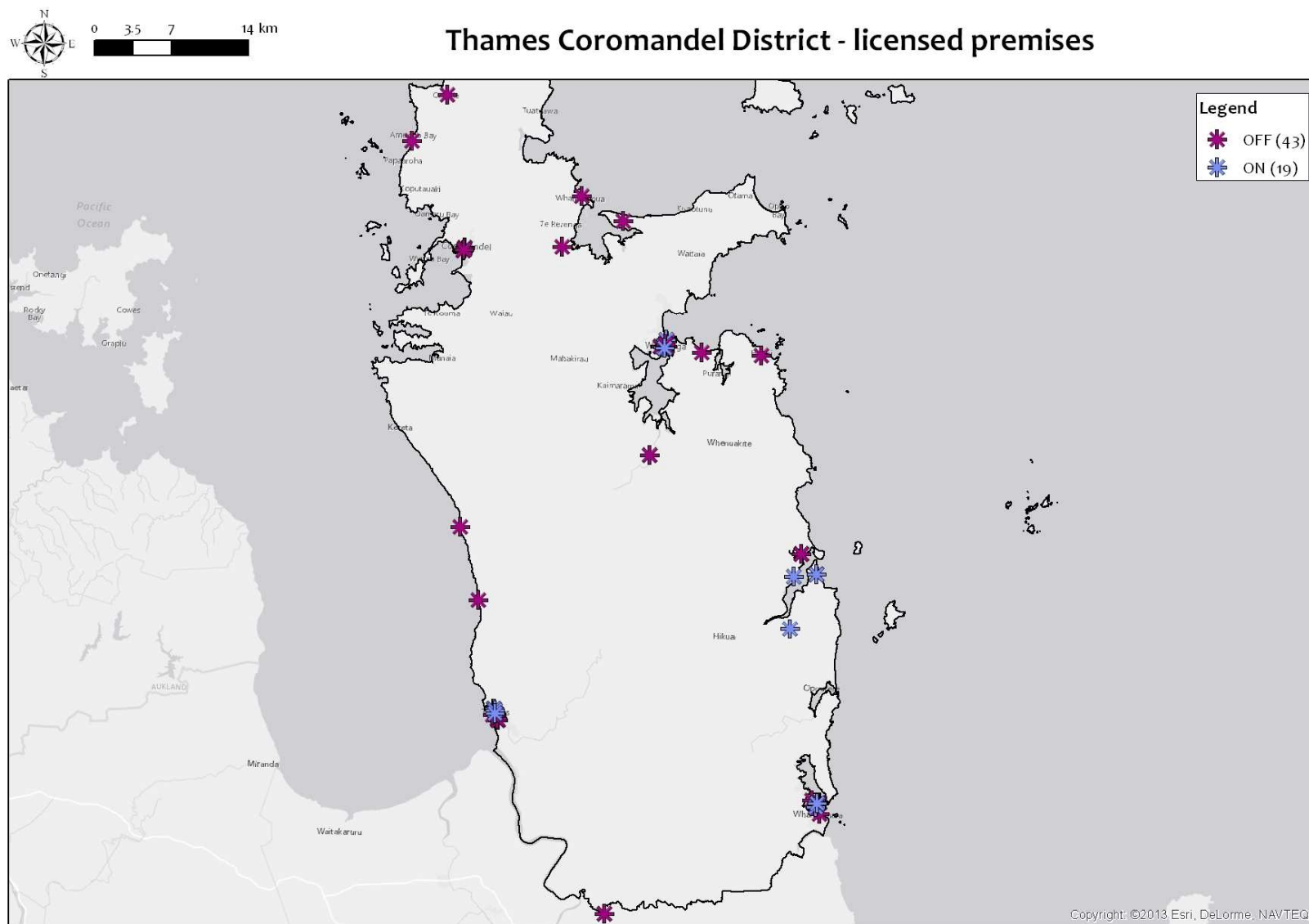


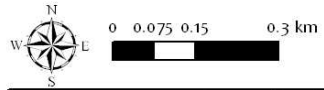


Third level hotspots - Thames Coromandel District, 2012 (Whitianga)

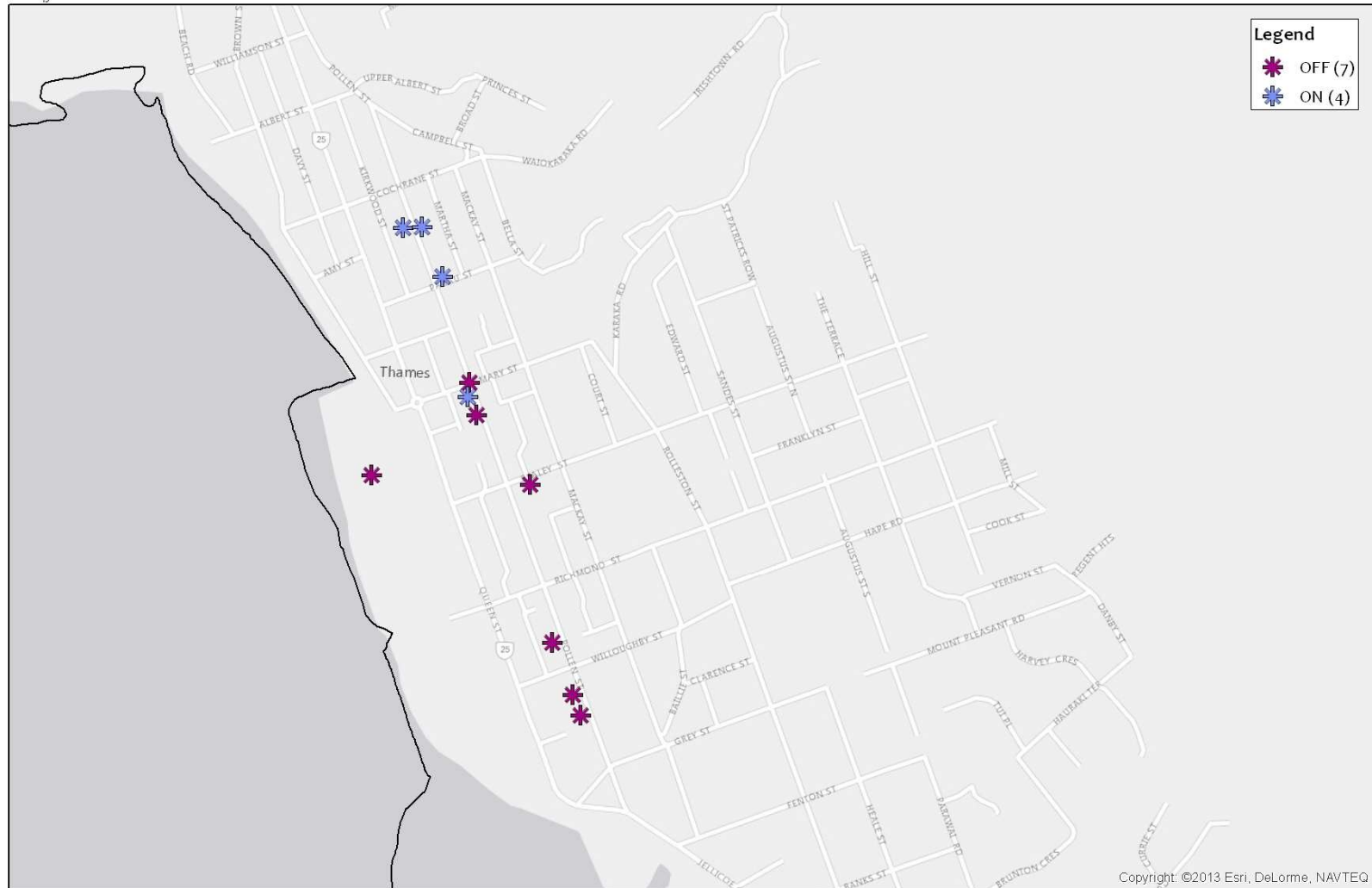


Appendix – Licensed Premises





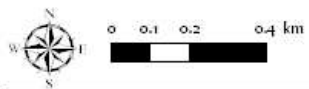
Thames Coromandel District - licensed premises (Thames)





Thames Coromandel District - licensed premises (Whangamata)





Thames Coromandel District - licensed premises (Whitianga)

