“Consideration of Flood Risk in Land Use Planning”

Paul Grech

NSW formally abandoned the 100 year flood as the singular state based standard for development in 1984 in place of a locally implemented “merits based” approach. This has effectively been the lever to implement a risk based approach. While this was some 28 years ago now it has been a slow process for local council’s to transition between the two. Such an approach is nationally recognised as best practice and has been reiterated as such in the recent findings of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry Report.

The big question for planners is how such an approach can be translated to the planning process. An approach will be presented that:

• provides guidance to for strategic planning;
• outlines development controls in a comprehensive and consistent format; and
• communicates flood risks without misinforming or unduly alarming the public.

This approach has been developed over a 15 year period and has been implemented in over 30 Councils in NSW and endorsed as part of the Hawkesbury Nepean Regional Flood Risk Management Strategy.