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### **Getting the strategy right: applying risk-based land use planning**

The Brisbane River floodplain is one of Australia's most hazardous. Following the devastating floods of 2011 and subsequent class action legal proceedings, all eyes are now on the development of a risk-based floodplain management plan.

Risk-based approaches to natural hazard management are becoming common practice, as guided by Australian and International Standards, such as AS/ISO 31000:2009, and the PIA National Land Use Planning Guidelines for Disaster Resilient Communities. These approaches consider risk as a combination of the 'likelihood' of an event and its associated 'consequence'. Statutory planning regulations, such as the Queensland State Planning Policy (SPP), now require risk-based assessments and strategies when preparing planning instruments.

A risk-based approach to defining flood hazards represents a paradigm shift for local governments nationally who are more familiar with 'lines on maps' and easily defined concepts, such as the Q100. Adopting a risk-based approach introduces many new, but ill-defined, considerations, including vulnerability and risk tolerance. It is neither practical nor economic to simply 'avoid' flood risks by excluding development within flood affected areas. Decisions are required about what is risk-appropriate development in these areas. Just as the flood risk varies across a floodplain (highest adjacent to rivers, to lowest at extremities), land use planning responses should also vary.

This Short Hit of Training (SHOT) will draw on key concepts of flood risk planning as applied within the Brisbane River catchment, with acknowledged links to the abovementioned standards and guidance. The key concepts include defining flood risk based on a range of flood event sizes and their different consequences of impact. This training will also share our experience in engagement with local government strategic planners as we developed the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan (SFMP). Critical to these concepts was taking a regionally consistent 'whole-of-floodplain' approach to assessing, defining and managing flood risk.

