

# establish

Creating inspired communities for Queensland

MAY/JUN 2016

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## In Depth: THE NEW CUSTOMER

development feature.  
Sunshine Cove

CLOSE UP  
ZAHA HADID'S  
LEGACY





# New horizon for floodplain development

BY PAUL OLLETT, DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL WATER ENGINEER, HYDRALINC

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL GUIDELINE ON FLOOD ESTIMATION, AUSTRALIAN RAINFALL & RUNOFF (ARR), IS ABOUT TO BE UPDATED.

The new ARR was officially released as a partially completed document in 2015, with finalisation of the remaining chapters due later in 2016. The ARR-2015 revision project has been undertaken with \$4 million of funding provided by the Federal Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and \$5 million funding by Geoscience Australia.

The previous edition was published in 1987 – almost three decades ago. Since that time we have gathered more rainfall and flood data, and also experienced major changes in computing technology.

*What will this mean for the development industry?*

The industry can expect updates to some council flood standards and changes to the way flood investigations are carried out.

For example, new rainfall intensity estimates have been prepared that are based on a longer period of measurement. This will mean changes to flowrate estimates for some areas.

The new edition will also provide guidance on new computer-based approaches to estimating flood discharges. Some of these approaches include consideration of multiple storm patterns, which may also result in changes to flood estimates.

Other areas where the guidance has been updated include consideration of climate change, blockage of structures with debris, and the design of urban stormwater networks.

As ARR-2015 will take time to implement, with some councils requiring the guidance to be adopted sooner than others, it is recommended confirming with a council their position prior to



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commencing a flood investigation or hydraulic impact assessment.

The ARR-2015 guideline will require upskilling of practitioners in the industry and also alterations to software still based on the ARR-

1987 guideline. The uptake of the ARR-2015 guidelines can be expected to take several years. To some extent, the speed of uptake will be driven by council requirements for future development applications. /e