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## Ending floodplain development a sensible step

The Australian Institute of Architects has commended the Minns Government for its responsible land use decision in stopping additional development in Sydney's flood-prone areas.

Institute Chapter President Adam Haddow said the recent decision from Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully to stop building on high-risk floodplains in western Sydney was a commendable step.

"We welcome this sensible decision to suspend future development in known flood areas," Mr Haddow said.

"This is a positive initiative to safeguard our communities from the heartache of flooded homes and preserve our built environment."

The Institute notes the significance of the rezoning announcement, which overturns the ability to develop new homes in high-risk areas of Marsden Park North and Riverstone Town Centre in what was the North-West Growth corridor.

The announcement was based on an analysis of flood and evacuation impacts, the [Flood Evacuation Modelling report](#) for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, which highlighted the frequent floods in the valley and infrastructure challenges when people need to leave their homes.

The decision to halt some development means about 10,000 homes that could have previously been built in the areas will not be able to proceed.

"While we recognise that more housing supply is required to support our growing population, building in high-risk zones is never the answer," Mr Haddow said.

"The Institute will continue to call for housing that is affordable, liveable and climate-resilient. These homes would have simply repeated the mistakes of the past.

"With the increasing risks of climate change, this proactive approach to reduce the risk just makes sense."

The Institute will continue to advocate for sensible development to meet the New South Wales' housing needs.



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