

# Flooding in Brisbane

## An explanation of technical flood terms

We have learnt much about flooding over time. The January 2011 flood and subsequent Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry, and Council's *Flood Action Plan* acknowledge the importance of providing the best information available to help residents and businesses understand their flood risk and be prepared for flooding.

Council has developed the Flood Awareness Maps and adopted the terms 'high', 'medium', 'low' and 'very low' risk areas to help residents and businesses better understand the likelihood of a flood affecting their property.

The Flood Awareness Maps are an awareness tool to provide an indication of the likelihood of a flood occurring from one or more sources: creek, river, overland flow and storm tide.

The maps do not provide information about the depth or speed of flood water. Information on potential depth levels for a property can be found in the FloodWise Property Report visit [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building).

The table below is an explanation of the flood extents Council has used to create the **Flood Awareness Maps**.

Flood Awareness Map risk area	Percentage chance of a flood occurring in any year (AEP*)	Average period between occurrences of a given flood event (ARI** )	Probability of a flood occurring at least once in 70 years	Definition
<b>High risk area</b>	5%	1 in 20 years	97.0%	This is a flood event that is almost certain to occur during a single lifetime (70 years). Over a very long period of time an event of similar size may occur, on average, once every 20 years. Although unusual, an event of this size can occur more frequently. It is likely an event of this size will occur more than once during a single lifetime (70 years). A flood of this size or larger has a 5% chance of occurring in any year.
<b>Medium risk area</b>	1%	1 in 100 years (Q100 <sup>^</sup> )	50%	This flood event is likely to occur during a single lifetime (70 years). Over a very long period of time an event of similar size may occur, on average, once every 100 years; however it may occur more frequently. A flood of this size or larger has a 1% chance of occurring in any year.
<b>Low risk area</b>	0.20%	1 in 500 years	13%	An unlikely flood event. Over a very long period of time an event of similar size may occur on average once every 500 years. When an event of this size occurs it is considered to be very rare. A flood of this size or larger has a 0.20% chance of occurring in any year.
<b>Very low risk area</b>	0.05%	1 in 2000 years	3.4%	A very unlikely flood event. Over a very long period of time an event of similar size may occur on average once every 2000 years. When an event of this size occurs it is considered to be very exceptional. A flood of this size or larger has a 0.05% chance of occurring in any year.

\*AEP Annual Exceedance Probability. The likelihood of a flood of a given size or larger occurring in any year; usually expressed as a percentage.

\*\*ARI Average Recurrence Interval. The average or expected duration of the period between occurrences of a given flood event; generally expressed as a certain number of years (e.g. 50, 100 etc).

<sup>^</sup>Q100 A flood event that has the probability of occurring once in every 100 years. Some people incorrectly believe that a flood of this size can only happen once every 100 years. However, the probability of a 1 in 100 year flood occurring is 1% in any year and this probability is the same every year.



