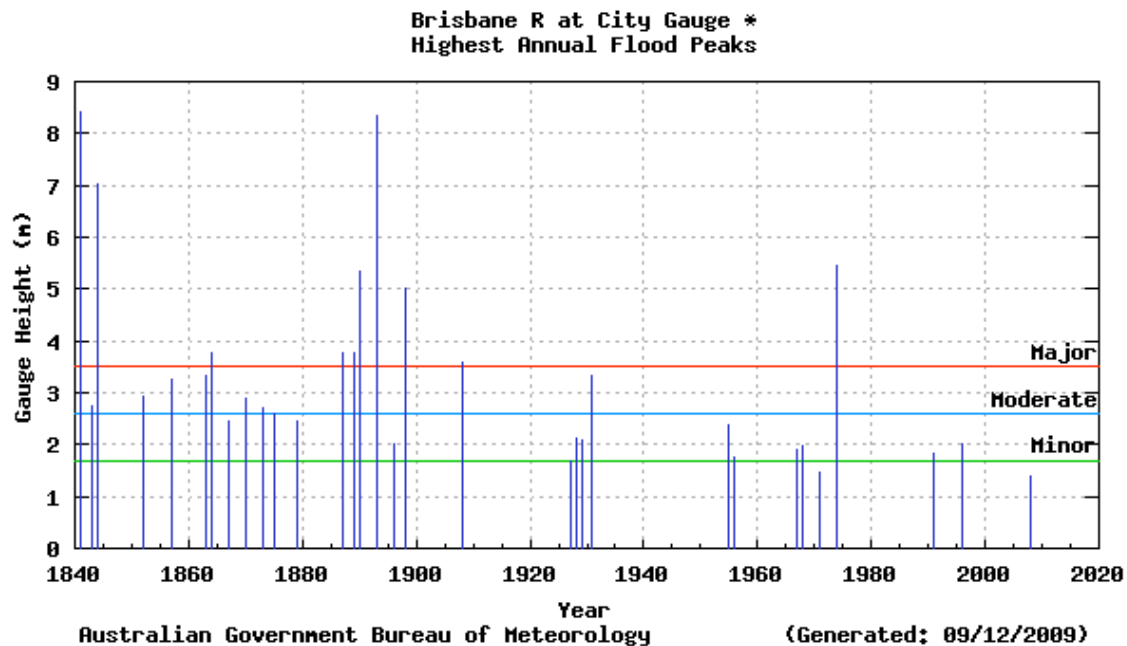


HISTORY OF FLOODING IN THE BRISBANE RIVER 1840 - 2011

The graph below plots the flood heights of the Brisbane River from 1840 to 2009. It shows that:

- flooding of the river was much more common between 1841-1908 than since, and
- only minor sporadic flooding has occurred since 1974, partly due to the mitigating effect of the Wivenhoe Dam.



In March 1841, the deluge consisted of 616 mm (24.25 inches) of rain in a little over 4 days; 208 mm (8.20 inches) being the maximum fall in 12 hours.

In February 1893 the Brisbane River burst its banks because of a deluge caused by a tropical cyclone. Over the space of eight days, over 2,000 mm (79 inches) of rain fell on the city.

On 24 January 1974, after weeks of heavy rain that had already caused creeks in Brisbane to burst their banks, a tropical cyclone pushed rivers in the state of Queensland over their limit. Some 300 mm (11.8 inches) of rain fell on Brisbane in the space of 24 hours.

Approved for construction in 1971, the partially completed Wivenhoe Dam mitigated a potentially severe flood in June 1983. Dam construction was completed in 1985.

On 14 January 2011, the Brisbane River peaked at 4.46 metres.