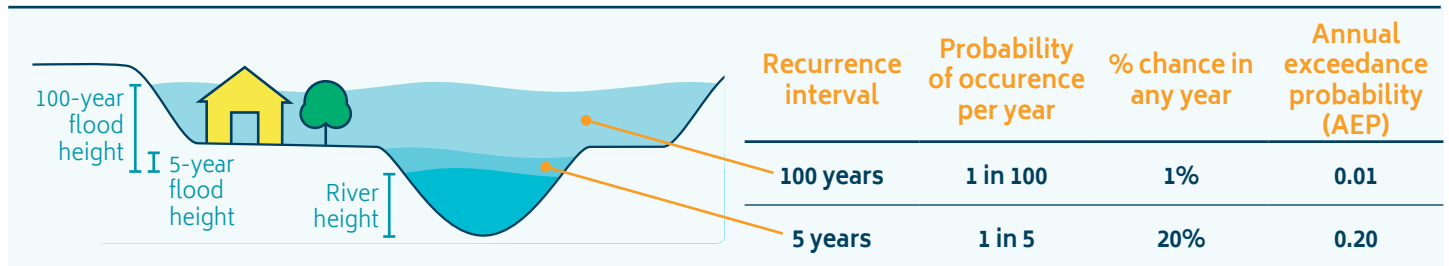


What is a 100-year flood?

A '1-in-100-year flood' refers to a flood height that has a **long-term likelihood of occurring once in every 100 years** (also called a 100 year recurrence interval).

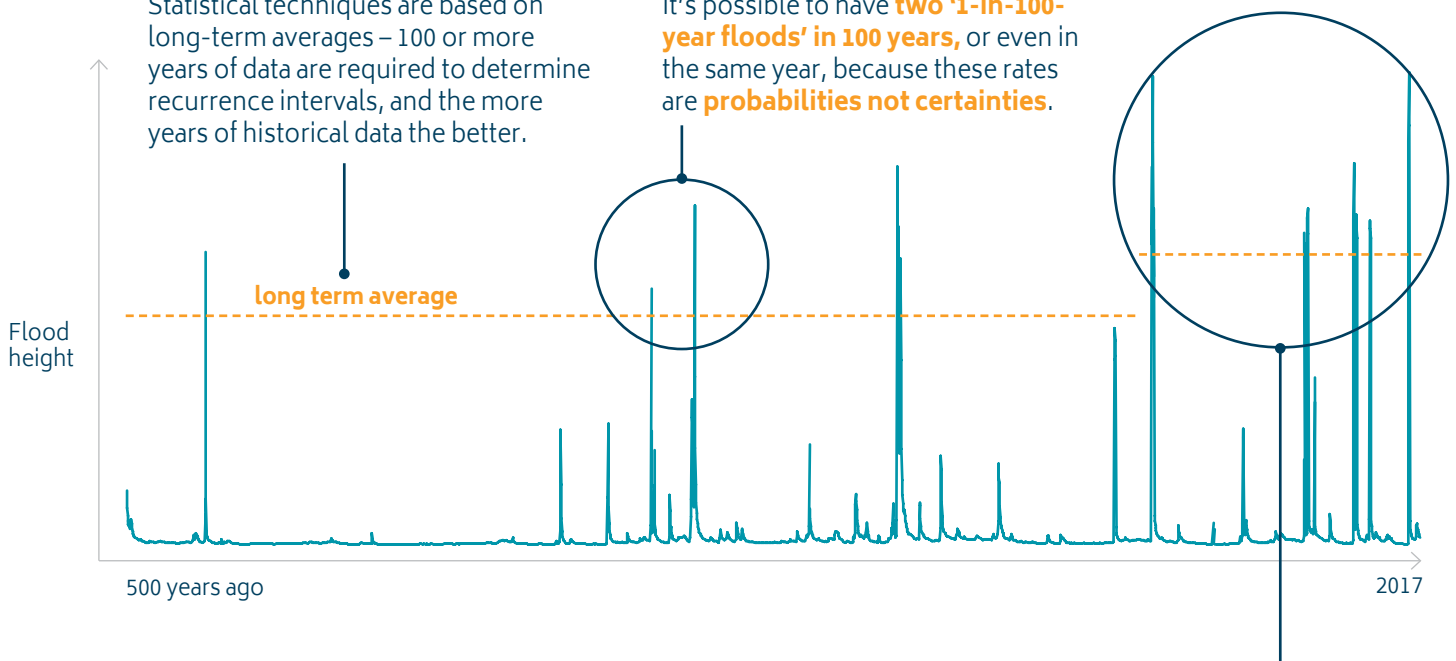
Another way of describing this flood event is: a flood height that has a long-term average **1 per cent chance of happening in any given year**. Risk experts refer to this as a 0.01 Annual Exceedance Probability.



The probability of a flood event is calculated using statistical techniques.

Statistical techniques are based on long-term averages – 100 or more years of data are required to determine recurrence intervals, and the more years of historical data the better.

It's possible to have **two '1-in-100-year floods' in 100 years**, or even in the same year, because these rates are **probabilities not certainties**.



Thinking about flood probabilities can help you decide **whether or not to take action**.

Where the probability of an event occurring is higher than 50% within the lifespan of your asset, you should consider action to prepare for it. Where an event is less probable, you might undertake minimal preparation – depending on the value and purpose of your asset.

Climate change is increasing the probability of floods in some places, so a 1-in-100-year flood might become a 1-in-50-year flood.

Human activities can also affect flood probabilities in other ways, for example through land clearance and channel straightening.