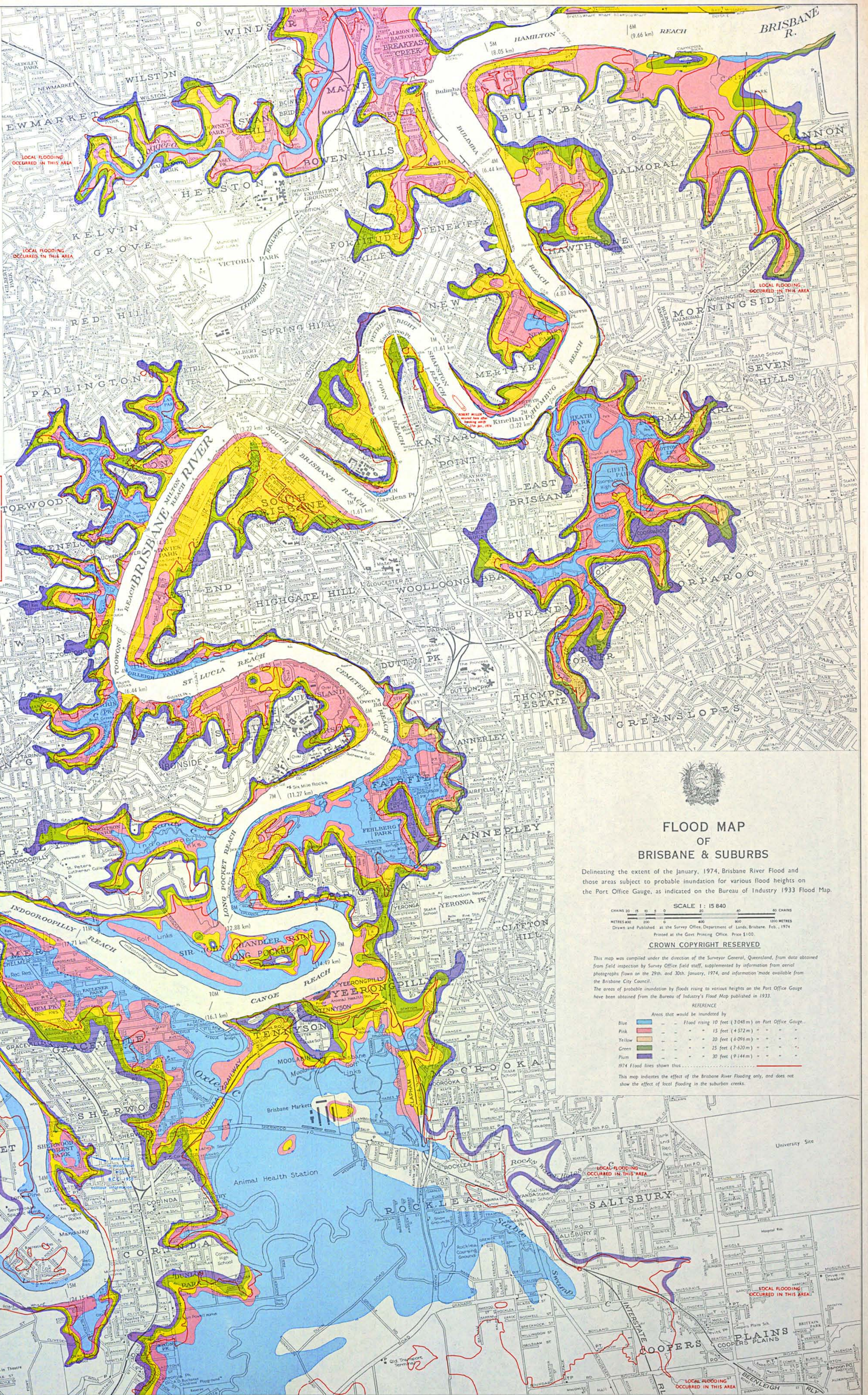

NOTES

This map, prepared by the Survey Office, relates the January, 1974, flood line to areas of probable inundation for various river heights as delineated on the original Brisbane Flood Map compiled by the Bureau of Industry in 1933.

The explanatory notes and the tables accompanying that publication, with the addition of the actual heights of floods in 1955, 1968 and 1974, are reproduced below.

The original map was produced from all the available data, showing the areas that would be inundated by the occurrence of floods rising 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 feet respectively on the Port Office Gauge. Fifteen feet on the Port Office Gauge may be regarded as the critical level and no serious damage need be anticipated by a flood which does not exceed that height. The areas indicated on the map are those which would be covered by backwater from the river, but in some districts more extensive floodings from local storms may occur. The flooded areas shown are based upon the original surface levels of the ground as shown by the contour survey of Brisbane and in places may be affected by subsequent excavation or filling.

Improvements made in the lower river have the effect of lowering high floods by at least 4 feet (1·219 m) from Victoria Bridge downstream, but will not appreciably affect the levels upstream from the Bridge. This has been taken into account in constructing the flood map (and tables).

The Somerset Dam, built since 1933, can affect height of flooding and the reading on the Port Office Gauge.

The list below shows that groups of high floods occurred in the forties and nineties of last century, but the actual time at which floods will occur in the future cannot be forecast. There is, however, evidence that floods of the magnitude of those of 5th and 19th February, 1893 (really two peaks of the same flood), are rare. If such a flood occurred now, it would rise to a height of about 27 feet (8·229 m) on the Port Office Gauge.

LIST OF FLOODS IN THE BRISBANE RIVER

AND THE HEIGHTS TO WHICH THEY WOULD RISE ON THE PORT OFFICE GAUGE UNDER THE FORMER (1933) CONDITION OF THE RIVER.

(Floods less than 13 feet before 1931 are not included)

Date	Height on Port Office Gauge	Date	Height on Port Office Gauge
1841—Jan. 14	Large Flood (Height unknown)	1893—Feb. 5	27 ft. (8·229 m)
		1893—Feb. 19	26 ft. (7·925 m)
1844—Jan. 10	23 ft. (7·01 m)	1898—Jan. 13	16¼ ft. (4·953 m)
1845—	Large Flood (Height unknown)	1908—Mar. 15	13 ft. (3·962 m)
		1931—Feb. 7	14¾ ft. (4·496 m)
1864—Mar. 20	13 ft. (3·962 m)	*1955—Mar. 30	11½ ft. (3·505 m)
1887—Jan. 23	13 ft. (3·962 m)	*1968—Jan. 15	10¼ ft. (3·124 m)
1889—July 20	13 ft. (3·962 m)	*1974—Jan. 29	21¾ ft. ([illegible] m)
1890—Mar. 13	17¼ ft. (5·258 m)	(* Actual Heights)	

The probable time during which the river would remain at or above the various heights on the Port Office Gauge would be—

Maximum Height of Flood on Port Office Gauge	Duration of Flow at various Gauge Heights				
	30 ft. (9·144 m)	25 ft. (7·620 m)	20 ft. (6·096 m)	15 ft. (4·572 m)	10 ft. (3·048 m)
30 ft.	½-day	2 days	3¼ days	4 days	5 days
25 ft.		½-day	2 days	3 days	3½ days
20 ft.			½-day	2 days	3½ days
15 ft.				½-day	2 days

Since no two floods behave in exactly the same manner, even though they rise to the same maximum height on the Gauge, it follows that, at points far away from the Gauge, the boundaries of the flooded areas may vary somewhat from those shown on the map and the duration of flooding may also vary. Consequently, the information given must be regarded as representing average conditions only.

Datum of the Port Office Gauge is 3·485 feet (1·062 m) below State Datum and 3·775 feet (1·150 m) below A.H.D.

Port office datum has altered slightly since 1893 but would not make any appreciable difference to 1974 flood heights as shown.

WARNING

THIS MAP SHOULD BE USED ONLY AS A GENERAL GUIDE TO THE AREAS SUBJECT TO INUNDATION.

Although the 1974 flood information has been compiled from the best information available, no closed traverses have been carried out. Consequently no warranty is given as to the correctness of the flood perimeter shown hereon.

It will be noted that the 1974 flood line differs from that predicted for a flood rising to 21¾ ft. at the Port Office Gauge.

This is accounted for by the lack of reliable contour information in 1933, by changes in the ground level made by filling or by excavation, by changes in the condition of the Brisbane River channels, or by local flash flooding of creeks.

FLOOD MAP OF BRISBANE & SUBURBS

Delineating the extent of the January, 1974, Brisbane River Flood and those areas subject to probable inundation for various flood heights on the Port Office Gauge, as indicated on the Bureau of Industry 1933 Flood Map.

SCALE 1 : 15 840

CHAINS 20 15 10 5 0 20 40 60 CHAINS

METRES 400 200 0 400 800 1200 METRES

Drawn and Published at the Survey Office, Department of Lands, Brisbane. Feb., 1974

Printed at the Govt Printing Office. Price $1·00.

This map was compiled under the direction of the Surveyor General, Queensland, from data obtained from field inspection by Survey Office field staff, supplemented by information from aerial photographs flown on the 29th. and 30th. January, 1974, and information made available from the Brisbane City Council.

The areas of probable inundation by floods rising to various heights on the Port Office Gauge have been obtained from the Bureau of Industry's Flood Map published in 1933.

REFERENCE

Areas that would be inundated by

Blue	Flood rising 10 feet (3·048 m) on Port Office Gauge
Pink	" " 15 feet (4·572 m) " " " "
Yellow	" " 20 feet (6·096 m) " " " "
Green	" " 25 feet (7·620 m) " " " "
Plum	" " 30 feet (9·144 m) " " " "

1974 Flood lines shown thus

This map indicates the effect of the Brisbane River Flooding only, and does not show the effect of local flooding in the suburban creeks.