

## RADIO NEWS & TALKBACK PRECIS

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Afternoon Period (1pm-6pm)  
Tuesday, 7 January 2014

### RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS

**Jayne Bates, Mayor, Kangaroo Island** (891ABC 16.24-16.32) Flood waters causing problems on Kangaroo Island

*(Tribe: Kangaroo Island is a very popular holiday destination at this time of year but there's concern that recent heavy rains on Kangaroo Island could see some residents facing more than a year of flood waters. The areas of MacGillivray and Haines remain inundated after flooding in June last year ... Jayne welcome to the program ... where are the affected areas on Kangaroo Island?)* As you said the areas of MacGillivray and Haines ... south of American River ... area is unique in its form in the fact that there's no river systems in the area, it is full of lagoons ... there is no way for the water to escape ... heavy rains through last winter ... has inundated the area ... really the only way to disperse the water is evaporation ... we haven't had much luck there with nice warm dry weather to do that. *(Tribe: ... what is the evaporation rate expected for waters like that?)* Bureau of Meteorology have informed us that anywhere between one and one point five metres per annum ... it's not very fast seeing some of the water has been far deeper than that ... just prior to Christmas ... we had two days where we had an inch of rain on each day ... *(Tribe: ... how many properties have been affected?)* There's about 160 properties in the area ... interesting situation because normally a flood comes, goes and leaves a fair bit of damage behind; this one has come and stayed ... homes so far have been unaffected ... everyone's sort of high and dry, but access and living with that much water around you becomes very difficult ... driving cars ... your wheel bearings go ... long routes to get home ... opportunity to drive at night is not safe, trying to traverse these roads to get into work ... some people have relocated to Kingscote. The economic issue though is farmers have got a lot of land underwater for ... cropping, hay making ... been severely affected ... day to day life has been severely affected ... so getting rubbish in and out, getting mail services ... day to day things have become extremely difficult. *(Tribe: So you've got roads underwater in the area?)* Yes we have ... since June ... well over a metre deep ... the repair of these roads is being hindered ... can't repair of course until we see them and they dry out. *(Tribe: What about mosquitoes ...?)* ... we've been very good, we've given the community a lot of information about mosquito borne disease and the need to cover up ... we haven't seen ... any rise in those health issues ... they're taking care ... difficulties in living build stressful situation ... that community is pretty good for watching out for each other ... certainly there are resources there if people need help in that area. *(Tribe: ... you mentioned the serious and psychological and emotional toll it's taking on the people who own the properties and obviously it's going to be costly to council in the long run as well, have you sought any State Government assistance in relation to the issue and what are you going to do if you don't see this water evaporate and we're moving in towards the next winter?)* Yeah that's a big concern because our

opening rains on Kangaroo Island usually normal season happen around Anzac Day ... we're not far off of that and we've still got a significant amount of water ... the fear of it going into another year is very real. The cost is very real too. Initially the Office of State Recovery has given us some really great assistance ... we hold regular community meetings because the problems keep changing and the community need to tell us those changes ... so we can offer help ... the State Government has given us \$50,000 to help in that communication and assessment. The community have asked for ... an impact assessment to be done ... that's happening, about to start as we speak, but the long term damage to infrastructure ... we are working with the State Government now with disaster recovery. That will be a huge bill, but once again while the State is doing an awful lot to assist us in that assessment and final funding we can't do much until this area actually dries out. (Tribe: Jayne Bates, can you do anything that's practical above and beyond just waiting for it to evaporate ... can you bring in pumps and try and get that water out, is that feasible?) No, people say 'well pump the water off the road' but the paddocks are the same height as the water, so where do you pump it to? Because we're talking about a huge expanse of water ... evaporation is what we're needing. In the way of practical help, we have done an awful lot down there ... in trying to drop basalt into the water to give a hard road surface underneath to assist people getting through, so ... the roads don't collapse under them. That doesn't give a good ride of course but at least it's helped people get through. We have worked with farmers who need to get stock trucks in and out, fuel trucks in and out ... so it is one of those wait and see ... unusual situation where the flood comes and stays. (Tribe: ... it is an unusual situation indeed ... let's hope you have some really hot, dry weather ... to aid evaporation ... it's one that we will keep our eye on. Thank you very much for talking us through the problem this afternoon.) My pleasure. (Tribe: Jayne Bates is the Mayor of Kangaroo Island. It's really hard to believe, isn't it, that those floods happened back in June and they're still causing problems in the middle of summer.)