Extreme Weather events impact service in Central, Western and Southeast Districts of Queensland

As previously notified by Telstra on Friday 3 February 2012, Telstra’s normal operations in the Central, Western and Southeast Districts of Queensland were affected by extreme weather events on or about Friday 27 January 2012. Telstra’s telecommunications network in these areas have experienced high levels of damage that resulted in delays to installation and repair activities on a significant number of Telstra services. Due to the extent of damage to the Telstra network, the impact in the affected region has been greater than initially estimated, and as a consequence of the continued weather effects, the expected recovery date has now been extended to 9 March 2012.

Telstra has identified that the effect of these circumstances applies to an additional 3650 services bringing the total number of possibly affected services impacted to approximately 7150 services. The number of possibly affected services may increase as Telstra assesses the full effect of the extreme weather conditions. Based on current information, the resumption date of normal service operations is expected to be 9 March 2012. This date is indicative only; Telstra customers should anticipate that some further delays may occur. Telstra regrets any inconvenience caused to customers and thanks them for their patience while this work is being undertaken.

Telstra services encompassed in this exemption are in the area bounded by and including, but are not limited to the area starting at Stanage on the Torilla Peninsula follow the QLD coastline southeast past Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Maryborough to Rainbow Beach, then go west southwest through Tin Can Bay, Glenwood to Kilkivan. From Kilkivan, head south southeast through Manumbar, Kingaham, Jimna to Bellthorpe, then head south southwest through Nerurum, D’Aguilar National Park to Crossdale. From Crossdale head south to Glimorgan Vale, then south southwest through Rosevale, northwest through Woodbine to Hodgson Vale, then west to Irongate, northwest to Cecil Plains, southwest to Dunmore, northwest to Tara, west southwest to The Gums, southwest through Westmar and Thallon to Glendale Gorge on the Queensland/New South Wales state border. From Glendale Gorge follow the state border west to Cameron Corner where the border meets South Australia and then follow the border north to Haddon Corner, then west to Peoppel Corner where it meets the Northern Territory border, then follow the border north to the top of the Simpson Desert National Park then go east to Diamantina Lakes, north to Kynuna, then east to Sesbania Station, southeast to Dunrossie Station and then east to Carmichael Station, southeast to Peak Range National Park, east through Middlemount to Tooloombah then northeast back to Stanage. All suburbs and towns, off shore islands and coastal areas serviced by Telstra within these boundaries are encompassed in this exemption.

As these circumstances were outside of Telstra’s control, Telstra is claiming an exemption from compliance with time frames and performance standards required under the Telecommunications (Customer Service Guarantee) Standard 2011. Therefore Telstra is notifying customers that normal installation and repair time frames may not be met during the period from 31 January 2012 to 9 March 2012 inclusive (based on Telstra’s estimated recovery schedule correct at the time of publication of this notice) and, under section 21 of the Telecommunications (Customer Service Guarantee) Standard 2011, Telstra will be exempt from complying with performance standards during this period.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for a CSG payment under this notice, or would like us to reconsider whether the circumstances were a proper basis for claiming an exemption, you may contact us on the number displayed on your telephone account or alternatively on 132203 for service difficulties and faults or 132200 for sales, installations and billing- quoting CSG Exemption reference number 20120131-QLD-E-C-P-CENTRAL WEST.

Copies of this notice are available on our Internet site at http://telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/commitments/mass-service-disruption/ or you may request a copy by calling one of the Telstra numbers mentioned above.

If, after calling Telstra on one of the above numbers, you remain unsatisfied with our response to your query, you have the option of raising the matter with the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO). Information on the TIO and contact details are available on the Internet (www.tio.com.au) and in the White Pages® telephone directory.

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