

Customer Service Advice from Telstra

Extreme Weather events impact service in Lower West, Central West and Central Wheat Belt Districts of Western Australia.

As previously notified by Telstra on Monday 9 February 2015 and Wednesday 4 March 2015, Telstra's normal operations in the Lower West, Central West and Central Wheat Belt Districts of Western Australia have been affected by ongoing extreme weather events on or about Sunday 1 February 2015 through to Wednesday 4 February 2015 continuing to date.

Telstra's telecommunications network in these areas have experienced high levels of damage that has 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 ongoing weather effects, the expected recovery date has now been further extended to 19 April 2015.

Information as to the nature of these severe weather events can be sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). Destructive wind, large hailstones and flash flooding are referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 1 February 2015 initially at 9:37 am WST on Sunday 1 February 2015, and for damaging winds and heavy rainfall on 14 March 2015 initially issued at 3:01 am WST on Saturday 14 March 2015; all of which were widely reported in the news media after these events.

Telstra has identified that the effect of these circumstances may apply to an additional 250 services bringing the total number of potential services impacted to approximately 750 services. This number may increase as Telstra assesses the full affect of the ongoing extreme weather conditions.

Based on current information, the resumption date of normal service operations is expected to be 19 April 2015. 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 not limited to, the area starting at Perenjori heading southeast past Goodlands Nature Reserve to Beacon. The area turns southwest to past Bencubbin and Kellerberrin to Bulyee, then west to Brookton then northwest to Chidlow. From Chidlow the area turns north past Mooliabeenee and Moora to Marchagee and northeast back to Perenjori. All suburbs and towns serviced by Telstra within these boundaries, including the town of Northam, are encompassed in this exemption.

Services in the area mentioned above with phone numbers in the following number ranges may have been affected:

08 6661 1000	To	08 6661 1999	08 9620 1000	To	08 9693 1999
08 9572 6000	To	08 9574 9999	08 9951 8000	To	08 9951 8999

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 **4 February 2015** to **19 April 2015** 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 **20150204-WA-S-C-P-NORTHAM AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS**.

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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