

Customer Service Advice from Telstra

Severe Weather events impact service in parts of the Northern Rivers, Northern Tablelands and North West Slopes and Plains Districts of New South Wales and part of the Darling Downs and Granite Belt District of Queensland.

Telstra is working to manage the significant impact to Telstra services that has occurred as a result of a series of extreme weather events in parts of the Northern Rivers, Northern Tablelands and North West Slopes and Plains Districts of New South Wales and part of the Darling Downs and Granite Belt District of Queensland on or about Tuesday 3 November 2015 through to Thursday 5 November 2015.

Due to the effect of damage to the Telstra telecommunications network by severe thunderstorms, there has been a significant increase in the number of Telstra services being reported as faulty. As a result, there has been some disruption to service and delays to normal installation and repair activities.

Telstra apologises to any affected customers.

Information as to the nature of these severe weather events can be sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). Large hailstones and heavy rainfall are referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 3 November 2015 initially at 2:39 pm Tuesday, 3 November 2015; all of which were widely reported in the news media after the events.

Telstra has identified that the effect of these circumstances may apply to approximately 1,400 services. Some of these services may not be installed or repaired within Telstra's standard time frames. The number of possibly affected services may increase or decrease as Telstra assesses the full effect of the extreme weather conditions. Based on current information, the resumption date of Telstra's normal service operations is expected to be 29 November 2015. This date is indicative only, however, and may be subject to change once the full impact of the extreme weather conditions has been assessed. 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 Wardell following the NSW coast south to Iluka turning west past Coaldale to the Washpool National Park then south to Ebor. From Ebor the area heads southwest past Yarrowitch and Nowendoc to Ellerston then west to the Coolah Tops National Park, northwest past Premer to Rocky Glen then northeast past Baan Baa to Caroda. From Caroda the area turns northwest to Pallamallawa, northeast to North Star, then north to the NSW/QLD border and following the border westerly past Goondiwindi to the Talwood-Boonanga Rd. From the Talwood-Boonanga Rd the area heads northwest to Talwood, northeast past Westmar to The Gums, east to Kubarilla then southwest to Wyaga. The area turns northeast past Leyburn to Clifton then southeast crossing the QLD/NSW border past Woodenbong to The Risk. From The Risk the area heads east to Doon Doon, southeast to Clunes then south back to Wardell. All suburbs and towns, off shore islands and coastal areas serviced by Telstra within these boundaries are encompassed in this exemption.

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

02 5620 0000	To	02 5620 4999	02 6701 7000	To	02 6701 9999
02 5712 9000	To	02 5712 9999	02 6720 0000	To	02 6785 9999
02 6620 0000	To	02 6636 6999	07 4619 1000	To	07 4619 1999

02 6660 0000 **To** 02 6667 3999 07 4652 0000 **To** 07 4695 0999
02 6682 3000 **To** 02 6689 9999

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 **6 November 2015** to **29 November 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 **20151106-NSW-E-C-P-NORTHEAST NSW AND QLD GRANITE BELT**.

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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