

Customer Service Advice from Telstra

Severe Weather events impact service in the Hunter District and parts of the Central Tablelands and Mid North Coast of New South Wales.

Telstra is working to manage the significant impact to Telstra services that has occurred as a result of a series of severe weather events in the Hunter District and parts of the Central Tablelands and Mid North Coast of New South Wales on or about Wednesday 16 December 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, heavy rainfall and damaging wind are referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 16 December 2015 initially at 3:18 pm Wednesday, 16 December 2015, reference number IDN65152; 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 7,150 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 severe weather conditions. Based on current information, the resumption date of Telstra's normal service operations is expected to be 31 January 2016. 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 is not limited to, the area starting at Crowdy Head then following the NSW coast southwest past Forster, Nelson Bay, Newcastle, The Entrance to Patonga. From Patonga the area heads southwest to Galston, west to Londonderry, northwest to Berambing then southeast to Warragamba. The area then heads west to Gingkin, northeast past Medlow Bath to Mt Wilson, northwest to Glen Davis then north to Coulsons Creek. From Coulsons Creek the area heads northeast past Ellerston to Elands then southeast back to Crowdy Head. 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 4014 0500	To	02 4015 9999	02 6520 0000	To	02 6521 6999
02 4028 0000	To	02 4042 1999	02 6537 0000	To	02 6559 3999
02 4325 8400	To	02 4399 8199	02 6570 4000	To	02 6579 7999
02 4560 0000	To	02 4580 9999	02 6591 0000	To	02 6592 3999
02 4720 6000	To	02 4739 9999	02 9456 0000	To	02 9457 9999
02 4751 0000	To	02 4759 9999	02 9472 8000	To	02 9480 0999
02 4780 0000	To	02 4787 3899	02 9652 0000	To	02 9658 8999

02 4902 0000	To	02 4999 9999	02 9847 1000	To	02 9847 1999
02 5556 0000	To	02 5556 4999	02 9985 5000	To	02 9985 8999
02 5594 5000	To	02 5594 5999			

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 **18 December 2015** to **31 January 2016** 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 **20151218-NSW-E-C-P-HUNTER AND CENTRAL TABLELANDS**.

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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