

# Customer Service Advice from Telstra

## **Severe Weather events impact service in Capricornia District and parts of the Central Highlands and Coalfields and Central Coast-Whitsundays Districts of Queensland.**

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 Capricornia District and part of the Central Highlands and Coalfields and Central Coast-Whitsundays Districts of Queensland on or about Thursday 4 February 2016 through Friday 5 February 2016.

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). Damaging wind and heavy rainfall are referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 4 February 2016 initially at 1:46 pm Thursday, 4 February 2016, reference number IDQ20041; 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 1,300 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 13 March 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 McEwans Beach following the coastline south past Sarina, Yeppoon and Gladstone to Turkey Beach. From Turkey Beach the area turns southwest to Iveragh, south to Colosseum and southeast to Monal then northwest to Dumgree. The area heads northeast to Mt Alma, northwest past Oakey Creek, Jellinbah and Tieri to Lowestoff, north to Winchester then northwest to Mount Coolon. From Mount Coolon the area turns northeast to Newlands, southeast past Mount Britton then northwest back to McEwans Beach. 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:

07 4816 7000	<b>To</b>	07 4816 7999	07 4898 3000	<b>To</b>	07 4985 9999
07 4835 2000	<b>To</b>	07 4846 2999	07 4999 0000	<b>To</b>	07 4999 4999
07 4884 2000	<b>To</b>	07 4885 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 2016** to **13 March 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 **20160204-QLD-E-C-P-CENTRAL QUEENSLAND**.

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](http://www.tio.com.au)) and in the White Pages® telephone directory.

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