

# Customer Service Advice from Telstra

## **Severe Weather events impact service in the Hunter District 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 of New South Wales on or about Tuesday 14 March 2017 through to Wednesday 15 March 2017.

Due to the effect of damage to the Telstra telecommunications network by large hailstones, heavy rainfall and damaging winds, 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 Early Warning Network at <http://www.ewn.com.au/alerts/>. Large hailstones, heavy rainfall and damaging winds are referred to within this site for Tuesday 14 March 2017 through to Wednesday 15 March 2017 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 650 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 9 April 2017. This date is indicative only, however, and may be subject to change once the full impact of the severe 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 are not limited to the area starting at Perrys Crossing heading southeast to Glenworth Valley, south to Mount Kuring-Gai then west to Londonderry. From Londonderry the area turns northwest to Berambing, northeast to Mellong and then turns southeast back to Perrys Crossing. All suburbs and towns 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 4560 0000      **To**      02 4588 9999      02 9652 0000      **To**      02 9658 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 **16 March 2017 to 9 April 2017** 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 20170316-NSW-E-C-P-HAWKESBURY AND SURROUNDING AREA

Copies of this notice are available on our Internet site at <http://www.telstra.com.au/consumer-advice/customer-service/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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