

# Customer Service Advice from Telstra

## Extreme Weather events impact service in Southern Mackay region

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 the Southern Mackay region of Queensland on or about Monday 8 December 2008.

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 winds, very heavy rainfall, flash flooding and large hailstones referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 8 December initially at 1:58 am Monday, 8 December 2008; all of which were widely reported in the news media after the events.

Telstra has identified that the effect of these circumstances applies to approximately 900 services. This number may increase as Telstra assesses the full affect of the extreme weather conditions. Based on current information, the resumption date of normal service operations is expected to be 30 December 2008. 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 is not limited to the area starting at Seaforth following the coast south to Mackay, Sarina, Koumala, Carmila, Clairview & St Lawrence, then south to Wumalgi, then west to Croydon and further west to Dysart, then north west to Moranbah, further north west to Mt Coolon, then east to Glenden and north east back to the coast at Seaforth.

All suburbs and towns and 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 4941 5001 To 07 4969 6999      07 4983 5501 To 07 4983 5593

As these circumstances were outside of Telstra's control, Telstra is claiming an extension to time frames applying under the *Telecommunications (Customer Service Guarantee) Standard 2000 (No.2)*. This means that Telstra is notifying customers that normal service time frames may not be met during the period of **10 December 2008 to 30 December 2008** inclusive (based on Telstra's estimated recovery schedule correct at the time of publication of this notice).

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 20081210-QLD-E-C-P-SOUTHERN MACKAY REGION**. Copies of this notice are available on our Internet site at [www.telstra.com.au/msd/](http://www.telstra.com.au/msd/) or you may request a copy by calling one of the Telstra numbers mentioned above.

If, after calling Telstra you are still not satisfied with the outcome, you have the option to raise 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® directory.

The Telstra logo consists of the word "Telstra" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a stylized grey shape that resembles a drop or a partial circle, partially overlapping the letter 'T'.