

Customer Service Advice from Telstra.

Extreme Weather events impact service in North Coast NSW

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 North Coast region of New South Wales on or about Monday 29 December 2008 through to Thursday 01 January 2009.

Due to the effect of damage to the Telstra telecommunications network by severe storms that brought with it strong winds, lightning to ground strikes and hail, 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). Severe thunderstorm warning for destructive wind and large hailstones referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 29 December 2008 initially at 11:50 AM 29 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 1247 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 06 January 2009. 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 Bilinga, follow the coastline south through Ballina, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie to Crowdy Head, then north -north-west through Lorne to Yarras, north through Comara to Ebor, then north-east to Tyringham, north through Jackadgery and Tabulam to Woodenbong, south-east to The Risk, north-east through Tyalgum and Chillingham back to the coast at Bilinga. All suburbs, 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:

02 6550 4000	To	02 6569 9499	07 5513 0001	To	07 5524 9999
02 6581 0000	To	02 6587 7297	07 5536 1000	To	07 5536 9999
02 6621 2000	To	02 6689 9497	07 5590 1900	To	07 5599 9999
02 6775 9100	To	02 6775 9298			

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 **02 January 2009 to 06 January 2009** 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 **20090102-NSW-E-C-P-NORTH COAST NSW**.

Copies of this notice are available on our Internet site at 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) and in the White Pages® directory.

