

Customer Service Advice from Telstra.

Extreme Weather events impact service in Central North New South Wales

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 Central North region of New South Wales on or about Friday 20 November 2009.

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 and damaging winds referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 20 November 2009 initially at 3:19 pm Friday, 20 November 2009; 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 3142 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 26 November 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 Crowdy Head follow the coast southwest to Patonga, then go southwest to Brooklyn and follow the Hawkesbury River inland to Wisemans Ferry, then go north to St Albans, west to Glen Davis, northwest through Running Stream to Hargraves, west to Stuart Town, west northwest to Bakers Swamp, west to Yeoval, west northwest through Tomingley to Dandaloo, west to Widgeland, south to Myamley, northwest to Nymagee, west to Neckarboo Station, north northwest to Tilpa, northeast to the Gundabooka National Park, southeast to Buckingham, east to Gwabegar, southeast to Rocky Glen, south through Purlewaugh to Binnaway, east southeast through Murrurundi and Timor to Elliston, east to Knorrit Flat, northeast to Elands, then southeast back to the coast at Crowdy Head. All suburbs, 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 4321 0000	To	02 4399 3999	02 6571 1000	To	02 6579 7199
02 4566 3000	To	02 4568 2298	02 6822 1000	To	02 6848 8899
02 4919 0000	To	02 4998 8798	02 6862 1742	To	02 6869 3388
02 6358 8201	To	02 6358 8660	02 6881 6000	To	02 6898 1208
02 6372 0000	To	02 6379 8466			

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 **23 November 2009 to 26 November 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 **20091123-NSW-E-C-P-CENTRAL NORTH**.

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.

